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Press Reports

Walter Lawrance
Bates College

P R E S S R E P O R T S

October 1967

to

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Lewiston, Maine
October, 1968

PRESS REPORTS

September 1967 - October 1968

September 16, 1967 — Lewiston Evening Journal

25 Years Ago Today '42
(From The Lewiston Journal Files)

Ornamental lamp posts at the Lewiston Public Library, 41 years old, and posts at the Lewiston Post Office, only a few years old, were losing a battle with the sulphuric fumes from the Androscoggin River and becoming "sad, sickly and getting blacker each day."

October 26, 1967 — Lewiston Daily Sun

AVRPC TOLD AREA
BEHIND REST OF ME.

Need for Recreation Facilities
Cited by Wakelin

By EDMUND A. MacDONALD

Members of the Androscoggin Valley Regional Planning Commission were told Wednesday night the commission's area is "definitely behind the rest of the State" as far as recreational facilities are concerned.

But Edward Wakelin, University of Maine Extension Service recreation specialist, told the commission it can do something about the situation and suggested that "if you have an idea, feasibility be damned."

Wakelin spoke to the commission about its role in the development of recreation in its planning area, telling those present that "planning boards and communities must take a fresh new look at recreation demands and at what they can do to meet that demand."

The speaker said that "recreation in Maine is an export industry in that it appeals to out-of-state dollars."

Can Do More

"Recreation is a nonextracting industry," Wakelin said, "because it takes nothing out of the state." This is all the more reason to consider it in planning.

Referring to tourism and recreation in the same sense, Wakelin told the AVRPC that "regional planning commissions

should be concerned about recreation because they can do things that no individual town can do."

As example he referred to the cleaning up of the Androscoggin River, saying that no one town could do anything in this line would compare with what the regional group could accomplish.

Turning to some of the economic factors involved, Wakelin told the AVRPC that in both Lewiston and Auburn, only 1 percent of the tax base dollar is derived from recreation, whereas the state average is 10 percent.

"Maine," Wakelin said, "will derive benefits from the recreation demands in the entire Northeast area. But will this area? You are definitely behind the rest of the state."

What Exists

Wakelin said "the regional commission can do a considerable amount of inventory work of what exists in the regional area." He said such an inventory should include public and private lands for recreation "plus potential lands in the area, and I understand several have been passed up." He said that before a recreation plan can be developed "you must know what exists."

Outlining some of the steps which can be taken by the AVRPC, Wakelin said "you must meet traditional recreation demands" and said that "you can hire a consultant to do your planning, but I don't recommend this. Plans from outside have a tendency to gather dust on someone's shelf."

Wakelin said the commission can do the work itself, set its goals and make plans to attain the goals.

"I would suggest you set idealistic goals whether they are feasible or not," he told the commission.

Good Potential

Wakelin said he feels there are many potential recreation sites in the area that can be exploited and told the commission that "If you create a traffic generator that attracts 25 people a day for a period of one year to your community, it is the same as getting a new industry with a $10,000 a year payroll."

"Make your plans," Wakelin told the commission. "There is a way to work it out."

Wakelin also pointed out that in developing recreation facilities for hometown use "it can't help but also become a tourist attraction."

The speaker was asked about additional use of Lake Auburn, which serves the Twin Cities water supply and Wakelin said there

time limit.

The authority discussed the pollution control program, time schedules to be met, federal and state aid and overall financing possibilities. The authority was established by legislative act in line with the proposed pollution control program to clean up the Androscoggin River by 1976. Its members are William R. Adams Jr., Lewiston Public Works Department director; William C. Harkins, chairman of the Public Works Board; Earl A. Tarr, Jr. and Thomas Webster of the Auburn Sewer District; and Robert W. Hudson of Central Maine Power Co.

The Boston firm has done engineering work for both cities over the past several years.

November 2, 1967 Lewiston Daily Sun

LEGISLATORS HEAR A TALK ON POLLUTION

Robert Fuller Hails The Advances Made in Androscoggin

By JOHN E. BATES

Assistant Attorney General Robert Fuller of Augusta presented a report on water pollution control advances in Androscoggin County to the Androscoggin County Legislative Delegation at its Wednesday night meeting.

Fuller, introduced by Sen. Romeo T. Boisvert, vice chairman, congratulated the delegation on its strong stand on pollution in the county's lakes and rivers, and he expressed the hope that other delegations will follow Androscoggin's example. He then discussed the current situation in the Little Androscoggin River, Sabattus Pond, and the Androscoggin River.

Emphasizing that the attorney general's office attempts to work out pollution problems on "an amiable basis," Fuller described four recent actions taken by the attorney general, at the recommendation of the legislative delegation.

Discuss Cases

Fuller reported that in one instance of pollution in the Little Androscoggin River, the attorney general was preparing to bring civil action against one firm. He stated that the problem has since been rectified, and the case will not be pressed.

Another alleged pollutor, Fuller said, has been using water from the Little Androscoggin, returning it to the river at a lower quality. That firm has notified the attorney general's office, announcing that it has contacted a manufacturer on

pollution abatement, and that it expects to begin taking steps to remedy the situation by Nov. 17.

The assistant attorney general discussed a third case, which involves a company that is using an aeration-absorption method of disposing of some 50 tons of manure a day. Fuller feels this method is but a "stop-gap measure," and he told the delegation that it may take a small, on-site treatment plant to correct the problem.
using a de-inking process to reclaim paper, but is apparently polluting the river in this manner. The problem will be explained at the hearing, and the firm will be given until Oct. 1, 1976, to rectify the matter, Fuller said.

"We have had a commission for years, but not until recently has it been empowered to enforce the pollution laws," Fuller declared, stating that the attorney general intends to set up a schedule for a statewide program to correct water pollution.

He announced that at the special session of the state legislature in January, 1968, the office will recommed that most pollution problems be solved by the WIC and not be the courts. He argued that not only are WIC engineers better informed of the problems and solutions than judges, but also the public nature of WIC hearings is more constructive, enabling communications to remain open and public interests to be defended.

Fuller recommended that the present Water Improvement bill in Maine be amended to force alleged pollutors to go to the WIC hearings. At present, the company is under no obligation to represent itself at the hearings, unless a court injunction has been issure for public health reasons.

"It will take effective laws and effective enforcement to insure that the new laws are obeyed, before we can bring these classification violations under control," Fuller said. He reported that although the Federal governemtn has set up standards of water classification, it has left the problem of applying the standards to the state governments.....

Attending the Wednesday night session were Sen. Boisvert, Reps. Drigotas and Bernard, Sen. Donia Girard of Lewiston, Rep. Richard B. Rocheleau of Auburn, Rep. George V. Hunter of Durham, and Rep. Carroll Minkowsky of Lewiston. Rep. Louis Jalbert was ill and unable to attend.

Nobember 27, 1967 Lewiston Daily Sun

Milestone Against Pollution

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the President had hoped could be enacted, but it represents a definite step forward.

Maine can take special pride in the Act, since it was sponsored by and steered through Congress by our junior United States senator, Edmund S. Muskie. He has won national recognition for his work both on air pollution, in which he is a pioneer, and water pollution. Both matters are of importance to this state, although pollution of water is the more serious problem here at this time.

Under the Muskie law, the governors of the states must develop air quality standards, and then see that they are enforced. Failure at the state level will open the way for action by federal authorities. The President favored legislation to allow regional commissions, set up by the federal government to set and enforce air standards, but Congress balked.

The act gives the federal government far-reaching emergency power in case any city is threatened by smog such as the death-dealing blanket which enveloped New York City a year ago. There were 150 deaths attributed to the acute case of air pollution. It was one of the factors which spurred congressional action.

The Air Pollution Act is only a first step. If it proves too weak in its application, as some fear, there is little doubt but what Congress will strengthen it. There is no fear that it will prove too stringent.

It is especially encouraging that Congress has not waited until air pollution reached a critical stage before taking action. Sen. Muskie deserves commendation for opening the eyes of his fellow members of Congress.

Eliminating the present sources of air pollution, and assuring that new ones will not develop in the future, will be an expensive task. But it is a necessary one.

December 15, 1967 Lewiston Daily Sun

N.E. REGIONAL APPROACH TO CLEAN WATER PUSHED

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) - The chairman of the Connecticut Clean Waters Task Force urged Thursday that this state and its New England neighbors group for an attack on regional water problems.

The chairman, Thomas F. Malone, director of research of the Travelers Insurance Companies, made his comments before the Interstate Conference on Water Problems.

"We have done what can be done by a single state," said

Malone, referring to Connecticut's fight against water pollution, including the task force of 100 citizens approved by Gov. John Dempsey to maintain the effort.

"Realistically, however, comprehensive pollution abatement can only be achieved on an interstate and regional basis," Malone continued. "We in Connecticut are particularly alert to this need, for our geographical position makes us primarily a recipient of stream-flows from our neighbors."

Malone's suggestion of a regional water task force echoed an earlier proposal presented to the New England governors by Dempsey.

Earlier in the day's meeting, a federal official explained some of the problems standing in the way of cooperative efforts between federal, state and local government in the antipollution battle.

Dr. Jacob I. Bregman, deputy assistant secretary of the interior, said: "It would be a difficult job to carry out, effectively, all the needed activities - to set, implement, monitor and force standards to build the needed treatment plants."

Funds for sewage plant construction have not been granted since Oct. 8 "because of the general cutback on federal spending," he noted.

Planning, however, has been aided by the Water Quality Act of 1965, which requires each state to adopt or seek federal assistance in adopting quality standards for its interstate waters, he said.

All 50 states, reported Bregman, have submitted their standards and plans.

Conservation problems also arise with the planning of atomic-powered generating plants, such as one proposed on the Connecticut River in Rutland, Vt., he said.

"The heat releases of the atomic reactor threaten to raise the temperature of the Connecticut River in Massachusetts some 13 degrees," Bregman said.

"Part of the problem in setting water-quality standards for heat and salinity," Bregman said, "Is that we do not know enough about the effects" of "increases of either heat or salinity on fish and plant life. However, we need to act while we learn," and "we know enough now to act intelligently."

December 14, 1967 Lewiston Daily Sun

CURTIS TO SEEK FUNDS TO CLEAN UP PENOBSCOT

AUGUSTA (AP) - Gov. Curtis attended a meeting on Penobscot River pollution Wednesday and said he will ask the special legislative session next month for money to step up the pace of abatement.

Murray Stein of the Federal Water Pollution Control Commission staff said he was "enormously pleased" by progress so far in the lower Penobscot River and bay area.

"If adequate financing can be arranged," Stein said, "the Penobscot pollution abatement program can be completed by the early 1970's. This is one of the best meetings we have ever held. The willingness expressed by municipalities and industry to provide secondary treatment is most heartening."

Curtis said he will seek authority for "pre-financing" of pollution abatement projects.

Curtis said he will seek authority for "pre-financing" of pollution abatement projects. This means making state money available quickly to pay for the feceral share of projects. This portion of the cost would be reimbursed to the state when the federal funds were allocated later the governor said several states are doing this now.

Generally, the state and federal governments pay up to 80 per cent of municipal sewerage programs and the localities 20 per cent. Even more state and federal money may be available when more than one municipality cooperate in joint projects.

More than 50 representatives of industry, local government and state government attended the meeting, at which Raeburn W. MacDonald, chief engineer of the Maine Water and Air environmental Improvement Commission presided.

The meeting was an outgrowth of public hearings held last April in Belfast, after water pollution forced the closing of almost the last of the Penobscot Bay clam flats still in use for food shellfish.

Speakers from Bangor, Bucksport, Belfast and other river and bay communities and from several paper, poultry processing and other types of industry told of progress on the river cleanup.

Commissioner Ronald T. Speers of the Fish & Game Department described plans and progress on Atlantic salmon restoration work and the idea of a model river basin system on the Penobscot.

December 22, 1967 Lewiston Evening Journal

Booklet on The Androscoggin Is Off the Press

AUGUSTA - The Androscoggin River, long the topic of much public concern, is the subject of a new fisheries research bulletin from the Maine Fish and Game Dept.

The 52-page booklet, by Regional Fishery Biologist Stuart DeRoche of Gorham, covers the history of man's mismanagement of the river, an analysis of the possibilities of the Androscoggin, and some recommendations for the future.

DeRoche examines the whole drainage - the river and its tributaries - dam by dam through both Maine and New Hampshire. He looks at the obstructions to fish passage and at the serious pollution problems.

This bulletin is available from the Fish and Game Dept. in Augusta, at a price of 25 cents per copy.

December 28, 1967 Lewiston Evening Journal
Editorial

Androscoggin 25-Year Report

We have just received "A Twenty-Five Year Review of Androscoggin River Pollution Control Activities." This report by Dr. Walter A. Lawrance, professor emeritus of Bates College and the public representative on the Androscoggin River Technical Committee, provides an up-to-date appraisal of the great strides taken in elimination of industrial pollution along the river under Dr. Lawrance's direction as court-appointed rivermaster.

It is essential to recapitulate briefly in order to realize exactly what has been accomplished during the 25 years of the committee's existence. Certainly twin city residents who lived in the area in 1942 need no prodding to recall just how obnoxious the river odor was at that time. Since 1958 the maximum odor factor in these communities dropped to zero and has remained there in subsequent years.

The Lawrance report affords a brief digest of the anti-pollution achievements. No better means of explaining what has happened is available than this terse summary which discloses how the efforts of the Brown Company, Oxford Paper Co. and International Paper Co. in building lagoons, new mills and in undertaking costly "in-mill changes" have produced this major improvement.

The report called attention to the tremendous anti-pollution developments as follows:

"1. Eliminated the severe odor nuisance along the river, especially in the Lewiston-Auburn area.

"2. Permanently eliminated sulfite production at Berlin, Rumford and Chisholm.

"3. Adopted the Kraft pulping process in which the strong waste liquors are burned.

"4. Reduced the biochemical oxygen demand of residual wastes.

"5. Increased the dissolved oxygen content of the river water to much safer levels.

"6. Made considerable progress in reducing the discharge of suspended solids to the river."

Dr. Lawrance points out the three pulp and paper companies currently "are conducting studies in cooperation with their respective municipal officials and sanitary engineers to determine the feasibility of combined treatment of mill effluents and sanitary sewage." This means the battle against pollution is continuing insofar as the companies are concerned.

The various municipalities along the Androscoggin face a deadline calling for primary and secondary treatment of domestic wastes operating no later than October, 1976. The same deadline applies to industrial wastes. Thus, within less than 9 years the fight against pollution of the river will be completed, and the Androscoggin will in course of time once again become a suitable habitat for fish and wildlife.

We believe the Androscoggin River Technical Committee has performed its duties most effectively. Special commendation is owed Dr. Lawrance for his wise administration of the committee program in his capacity as rivermaster.

December 31, 1967 Portland Sunday Telegram

From Lake Umbagog To The Sea

By William H. Williamson

CAPTION under large picture - Lake Umbagog from New Hampshire, looking toward Maine, with the beginning of the Androscoggin in foreground.

THIS BEING the first of three articles on the subject of pollution as it affects the citizens of what is known as the Pine Tree State; readers are hereby invited to hold their noses and join our reporter in a sentimental journey along a waterway known as the Androscoggin, which hereinafter may also be referred to as The River or The Great Skunk; wherein fish were once reputed to have

lived and thrived and Indians to have joyously hunted along its banks.

THE ANDROSCOGGIN RIVER couldn't have picked a more beautiful spot to start its twisting 160-mile journey through New Hampshire and Maine than Lake Umbagog.

But then, if the river had any sense, it never would leave this beautiful place.

Looking down on the lake from the mountains that climb from its shores, its hard to imagine that anything starting here could come to a bad end.

The fount of the Androscoggin stretches from Upton for nearly eight crystal clear miles, meandering back and forth across the Maine and New Hampshire borders. The river, starting its descent from lake to ocean, tinkles merrily for 40 more miles through picturesque hamlets, a long stretch of velvet green forest, and tranquil farming country.

And that's the end of the good life for the Androscoggin.

It reaches Berlin, N.H., the home of the Brown Paper Co., and many thousands of waste-producing human beings. From thereon to Merrymeeting Bay, 120 miles away, the river is an open sewer.

THE STORY of the Androscoggin isn't a great deal different from that of most Maine rivers.

Most of the people who live along its banks don't realize what they've lost because since they were children, and even before, the river has been a stinking, muddy yellow stream, rarely more than 100 yards wide, that has no purpose whatsoever, beyond the transportation of industrial wastes and raw sewage.

Children who swim in the Androscoggin River do so at their extreme peril. The hundreds of tons of effluent dumped into it each day so reduce the oxygen content that fish die.

Anyone with even a rudimentary sense of smell is discouraged from boating on it, and for long stretches a covering of slimy white suds makes the Androscoggin revolting to the eye.

In the towns that house the several paper companies along its course, there is more than the "Androscoggin Sewer" to contend with. Malodorous vapors stream into the air from the multi-stacked mills. At Berlin, these clouds are of such proportions that they converge several hundred feet above the city and blossom much like a miniature atomic mushroom.

These vapors cause an odor so foul that even lifelong veterans grimace in disgust during particularly bad periods. The eyes smart and buildings become drab and shabby.

It was snowing briskly the day I traveled through Berlin, and outside the "Pot Luck" restaurant, a mill worker caught some of the snow on his palm. Bringing it to his nose, he muttered, "Ugh, even the snow stinks".

From the small, mid-town restaurant perched on the edge of the Androscoggin, you can, if you wish, sit at the rear and look down at the river. But although the restaurant was crowded, nobody chose to take the rear table with its panoramic view of the suds, slime and solids floating by.

A MIDDLE AGED waitress and a short order cook in his 20s were more than willing to discuss the Androscoggin with a stranger.

"Oh, the river's been like this as long as anybody can remember," the waitress said. "I don't suppose there's anything anybody could ever do about it. My dad used to work in the mill during the first world war, and it was just the same then."

"The first mill here was a sawmill, back in 1888," the short order cook volunteered. "After that, everything went downhill. The damn river isn't good for anything now. We're lucky in one way, though. You go upstream a little ways, and the river's beautiful, all the way to the headwaters. We have canoe races on it, and the kids can swim, and the fishing's real good."

And he is so right. The Androscoggin above Berlin is as beautiful a stream as you can find. It meanders along, clear and graceful, spotted with tiny wooded islands that conjur up images of Indian canoes and feasts of fresh fish.

Its sparkling waters bubble down from Lake Umbagog, which in turn is fed from a variety of romantically named sources - Moosehookmeguntic Lake, Aziscoos Lake, the Dean and Swift Diamond Rivers.

In 13-mile Wood - an uninhabited stretch between Berlin and the little town of Errol - you can take a few steps from your car, cup your hands and drink direct, deeply and without fear from the river.

It's very nice for Berlin natives to have such a river easily accessible. Farther down, as it courses through Maine, the people aren't so lucky. In either direction The Great Skunk, as one reporter once described it, offers nothing but depressing filth.

Once past Berlin, the Androscoggin travels to Gorham, N.H. a ski resort town. Here motels, restaurants, drive-ins and so forth spew their dose of unpleasantness into the river, spicing it pu a little more for its foray into Maine.

THE FIRST TOWN in Maine to receive the river from the north is Gilead, a tiny village that hasn't grown very much in more than 100 years. A description of Gilead, written early in the 19th century, reads:

"Behind the hamlet are tumbling mountain streams, and below it the sweeping Androscoggin, cutting its way through forests of fragrant cedar and pine, the water mirroring the beauty of the forest."

Today the Androscoggin doesn't mirror the beauty of anything, and its odor competes successfully with the "fragrant cedar and pine."

From Gilead the river proceeds through Bethel, Newry, Hanover and Rumford Center on its way to Rumford, the next significant pollution source. Between Gilead and Rumford its appearance improves somewhat, and there is even a public picnic table along the shore in the Hanover area. But at Rumford - seen from a distance like Berlin as a great cloud of vapor - it becomes unbelievably bad.

Mountains of pulpwood are backed up to the Oxford Paper Co., slowly being gobbled by huge cookers. And every day the mill pumps nearly 100,000 pounds of waste into the Androscoggin.

To realize the magnitude of the Oxford Paper Co.'s contribution to river pollution, examine the following pollution statistics:

From all sources in Maine, both industrial and municipal, 199,765 pounds of waste material and sewage are dumped into the Androscoggin each day. That's better than 72 million pounds of waste a year into a relatively narrow waterway travelling less than 120 miles through the Pine Tree State.

Of this waste, only 10 per cent is discharged by municipalities; the other 90 comes from industrial users.

And 49.2 per cent of all the waste dumped into Maine's section of the Androscoggin comes from the Oxford Paper Co. Considering that at least as much pollution originates from the Brown Paper Co in New Hampshire (not included in the Maine figures), the ultimate load on the Androscoggin is nothing short of staggering.

WITH THE CUMULATIVE effect of upstream pollution and the effluent at Rumford, the Androscoggin becomes a veritable nightmare just below the Oxford Paper Co. Even on a chilly day, it appears to be almost steaming - like some giant witche's cauldron.

It transforms what could be a basically attractive little city into a gaseous, almost pitiful window dressing for a hideous pot of pollution.

"It's like having a damned sewer running through your living room," growled a drug store clerk when asked if the river pollution bothered townspeople. "Would that bother you?"

The next major pollution point on the Androscoggin is at Jay, home of the International Paper Co., whose new plant was described by one resident as "the world's most modern paper mill!"

The world's most modern paper mill daily plops about 50,000 pounds of waste into the river. The plant has installed some rudimentary primary waste treatment, but not anywhere near enough to have much effect on the quality of the waterway.

In Livermore Falls, just a hop, skip and jump away, two little old ladies operate a quiet beer parlor in the center of town, overlooking the river.

One of them vowed she could recall the day when the Androscoggin was a pleasure and an asset. "It's a mess now alright, but you get used to it. You can get used to anything, I guess."

One of her customers disagreed. "Why should we have to get used to this?" he asked. "They say we need the payrolls from the mills, but what good is a payroll if it makes the place stink? People must have lived somehow before the mills came, right?"

Below Livermore Falls, human habitation tends to avoid close proximity to the Androscoggin until the river churns through Lewiston-Auburn. Here, the heavy concentration of industry and people add significantly to the problems.

When the river is running high, water - or something vaguely reminiscent of it - tumbles over rocky falls in the very heart of the Lewiston-Auburn complex. What should be a beautiful sight is instead an ugly reminder of man's contribution to his natural environment.

Below Lewiston-Auburn the river seems to partly recover, all the way to Brunswick, despite about 10,000 pounds of waste daily from the U.S. Gypsum Co. at Lisbon Falls. At Topsham the Pejepscot Paper co. tosses in about 9,000 pounds a day and in Brunswick, municipal and industrial waste results in suds and slime over much of the river surface.

ON THE OLD BATH ROAD, between Brunswick and Bath, lives Hollis Driscoll, a farmer who once farmed an island in the Androscoggin and who regularly harvested smelts for commercial sale.

Driscoll feels his river has improved somewhat since "the terrible fish kills" of the 1940's, but says the days of any substantial fishing in his area are over. The last smelt catch he sold was found to be unfit to eat, because of pollution, and he was forced to refund the purchase price.

At one time fishing was not only a recreational but also a commercial activity on the Androscoggin, especially in the area between Merrymeeting Bay and Brunswick.

Among the fish abounding in the river were Atlantic salmon, American shad, sturgeon, alewife and smelt. Now, these have been eliminated for all practical purposes.

Actually, while it's a little hard to believe, the Androscoggin has improved somewhat since the 1940's when conditions were so bad that public apathy disappeared and polluters were forced to take some remedial steps.

But these consisted almost entirely of surface activities only, to reduce the glaring public nuisance of stench without really overcoming the basic pollution problems. And even if water stench has been reduced, odors from the atmosphere are still present. Most noses can't tell the difference.

For years, the Androscoggin has been classified by the state as a Class D waterway, under which its only real practical use is transportation of wastes and sewages.

AT THE LAST SESSION of the legislature it was upgraded to Class C, which calls for a reduction of pollution sufficient to allow the support of fish life, limited recreational use (swimming would probably be safe except in the immediate vicinity of the mills and towns), transportation of treated wastes, and as a possible municipal water supply if adequately treated.

The legislature's other alternative was to reclassify the river B-2, which would have meant making it clean enough for all uses, a proposition that would cost more than the polluters probably could ever afford.

Although the Androscoggin has been reclassified on paper, it is a long, long way from Class C status in fact. A 70 per cent reduction in pollution will have to be achieved to get to such a point, and that's going to cost money. Lots and lots of money.

To bring the Androscoggin to the level now demanded by the legislature, $37.5 million will have to be spent in Maine alone. And without corresponding work in New Hampshire, there's little point in remedial projects here.

Cities and towns in Maine would require $21.8 million worth of work, while industry's costs would reach nearly $16 million.

The higher cost to municipalities, even though they produce only about 10 per cent of the pollution, is the result of the high cost of sewer system construction - a prerequisite for the setting up of municipal treatment plants. Industries would have only treatment plants to worry about, since their pollution sources are centralized.

It is thus apparent that reclassification of the Androscoggin isn't going to mean much unless it's enforced. And politically, enforcement of such an expensive proposition is probably going to be eyed cautiously by the state.

YET THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THE REAL PRESSURE MAY COME from New Hampshire, if current plans to eliminate pollution in the Berlin area become a reality.

Wlrking in conjunction are the cities of Berlin and Gorham, and the Brown Paper Co. A federal planning grant was obtained and a $126,000 study by engineering consultants Metcalf & Eddy was completed earlier this month.

The estimated cost of river upgrading in New Hampshire is $9 million, and a target date of 1975 has been set for completion. Secondary treatment of all pollutants is planned, and the Androscoggin in New Hampshire will have a Class B rating when the project is complete.

That would make the New Hampshire portion of the river below Berlin even cleaner than the target Class C rating in Maine. Above Berlin, the Androscoggin meets Class A standards, which is as clean as a river can get.

But there's a big difference between optimistic plans and their fruition. The obstacles and pitfalls that lie in the path of a completed project are manifold, and target completion dates have a way of moving farther and farther away - especially when so many million dollars are involved.

And while the time ambles by, the Androscoggin continues its ceaseless journey from Lake Umbagog to Merrymeeting Bay -- an aquatic beast of burden unable to complain about the atrocities man commits against it.

It will never again approach its carefree state of several hundred years ago when Anasaguntlcook Indians had large villages on its banks and carried their canoes around its falls and rapids.

But hopefully the day will come when man will at least in part undo the wrong he's done and once again the river can be regarded with affection instead of disgust.

Caption under pictures on this page. ABOVE, a summer air view of the Oxford Paper Company's mill at Rumford. The largest book paper mill under one roof in the world, the plant covers more than 30 acres at a bend in the Androscoggin River. It employs 2,800 people. Through the smoke from the stacks, the town of Mexico can be seen across the river. AT RIGHT, one of the scenes that have so saddened Maine conservationists. The picture, taken by WGAN-TV photographer Gene Wilman in July, 1965, shows hundreds of dead fish, mostly chubs and suckers, which floated into Mosquito Brook at Jay from the Androscoggin. The fish died from lack of oxygen in the river. The river bottom nearby is filled with industrial wastes. When the river turned over, the fish died.

January 5, 1968 Lewiston Evening Journal

MacDonald Estimates Cost Of Pollution Abatement Program at $225 Million

AUGUSTA (AP) - Planning for bringing Maine's pollution abatement program to completion is well along and "we are ready for funding and construction, not more planning," the engineering chief of the program said today.

Raeburn W. MacDonald estimated, however, that the total job needed to bring Maine rivers, streams and coastal waters up to acceptable minimum standards will cost $225 million or more. About half of this is expected to be available from the federal government, he said.

The public sector alone - municipal sewerage and treatment - will cost $150 million easily, MacDonald told the Water and Air Improvement Committee of the Associated Industries of Maine.

Engineering estimates for industries that are major water users total around $115 million if under taken separately, but some of this can be joined to municipal projects, reducing overall cost and claiming more federal aid.

MacDonald, who is chief engineer of the Maine Water and Air Improvement Commission, said that scheduling of work was slowed by a drastic change in federal participation, the effect of which is now being sorted out.

There are various levels of federal participation, MacDonald said, depending on the degree and quality of state and local efforts.

MacDonald said Maine's improvement of water quality so far has been greatest along the coast in such areas as Old Orchard Beach and Ogunquit. Other situations on or close to recreational waters in southern Maine are close to being corrected, he said.

There are different ways to measure progress, MacDonald said, but the commission prefers one based on analysis of samples and biological surveys of rivers.

"However", he said, "the philosophy of the program has been based upon correcting the most unpleasant situations first instead of devoting complete attention to a given river basin, resulting in a more gradual but more comprehensive improvement. The last stages of such a program of course will show phenomenal improvement at many locations in a short space of time."

January 9, 1968 Lewiston Daily Sun

N.E. Governors Study Regional Pollution Plan

BOSTON (AP) - The six New England governors decided Monday to bring in their public health chiefs in April with recommendations on how to control air pollution regionally.

The decision came at the New England Governor's Conference after Gov. John N. Dempsey of Connecticut and Gov. John A. Volpe of Massachusetts renewed a dispute over the Mid-Atlantic States Air Pollution Compact.

Gov. Dempsey said his state has joined the compact with New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and federal officials because it had strong enforcement powers.

Gov. Volpe said the public health chiefs of New England think the compact was designed chiefly against problems in greater New York, and New England should set up its own enforcement agreement.

The Governors also:
-Heard the New England Water Pollution Control Commission report a drastic shortage of trained operators to maintain and run abatement facilities.

January 10, 1968 Lewiston Evening Journal

Natural Resources Com. Told That Maine Needs More Exact Water Standards

AUGUSTA (AP) -- A bill that changes Maine's water classification standards to spell out harmful limits of acid or alkali content and water temperature is necessary to meet federal guidelines, the legislature's Natrual Resources committee was told today.

Raeburn W. MacDonald, chief of the Water and Air Environmental Improvement Commission, said that the federal Water Pollution Control Administration "is insisting on numerical limits" to replace the more general language of Maine's present law.

But Stuart R. Cooper of Rumford, appearing for the Associated Industries of Maine, said it opposes the changes, arguing that some trout streams have higher summer temperatures than the bill sets. He also said apparently unpolluted water coming to the Brown Co. plant at Berlin, N.H., is more acid than the bill's standards.

Donald W. Perkins of Portland, representing International Paper Co. and Keyes Fiber Co., also opposed the bill, saying the

amendments "appear to be damaging."

Another section of the bill allowing the WAEIC to summon alleged polluters to hearings was unopposed, as was a second bill heard by the committee, upgrading certain tidal waters of Hancock County from class SC to SB-1.

Mad Donald said the Hancock County bill was also necessary to bring Maine standards in line with federal guidelines.

January 14, 1968 Portland Sunday Telegram

Pollution Vs. The People Of Maine

A concluding article in which our hero hurls his gauntlet, so to speak, into the maw of public apathy.
By WILLIAM H. WILLIAMSON

THE TIME HAS come to be blunt. Maine's rivers, lakes and coastal waters have been violated by the ravages of pollution and are not apt to get much better in the near future.

The people of Maine - and those of the rest of the nation for that matter - are to blame. They have allowed their waterways to become filthy and unuseable because they don't really care. Or not enough to demand any significant action.

If the people had cared, they would have stormed the capitol to protest President Johnson's budget recommendation last year that only $203 million be allocated for pollution control during fiscal 1968.

According to Maine pollution officials, it would cost in the vicinity of $150 million merely to treat the state's municipas waste - by far the least of the state's two major pollution sources.

The same officials estimate that private industry is about $115 million away from the solution of its pollution activities.

Against a need for about $265 million in antipollution money in Maine alone, the federal appropriation of $203 million means a total in federal aid to Maine of $1.8 million. It doesn't take a mathmetician to realize that Maine's problems won't be solved at that rate.

IF THERE IS A BONAFIDE villain in the whole pollution spectrum, it has to be the federal government. Industry and municipalities have certainly made the mess, but it is the unwillingness of the federal government to give much more than massive lip service and token practical help that is holding back corrective measures.

Theoretically, the federal government will contribute 50 per cent of the cost of any given anti-pollution project. The state will contribute 30 per cent and the remaining 20 per cent is borne by local government.

With $1.8 million in federal money to work with, $3.6 million of work is possible in Maine in fiscal 1968. But even the city of Portland, facing a $30 million project if it is to clean up its waters, can't make much headway under these stringent conditions. Nor can any other major anti-pollution project in Maine.

The prospect facing Maine in 1968 is therefore the accomplishment of one project costing $3.6 million, or a number of minor projects, with neither alternative promising so much as a dent in the overall problem.

THE SITUATION LOOKS gloomy, yes? Raeburn Macdonald, head of Maine's anti-pollution agency, says it's even gloomier.

In 1967, he points out, Maine's federal allocation came to over $2 million - considerably more than the state will get this fiscal year.

Congress actually authorized over $400 million for this year, but when President Johnson, faced with foreign and domestic war worries, recommended only half that amount, Congress happily cut back to what he asked for.

Under the plan originally authorized by Congress, Maine would have been allocated $3.2 million this year instead of the $1.8 it's getting. That would have meant $6.5 million worth of projects compared to $3.6 million.

In 1969, under Congress' original plan, Maine would have been allocated $4.5 million, allowing $9 million worth of work; in 1970, about $6 million, and in 1971 the federal share would have hit $7 million for the Pine Tree State.

The three year Congress-recommended total, 1968-70, came to almost $17 million, meaning that anti-pollution work possible would have been in the region of $34. Alas, it never came to pass.

Macdonald doesn't think it will, either, until the end of the Vietnam war, and like many others he can't see any quick end to that conflict.

Privately, some federal officials are spreading the word that once the southeast Asian conflict ends, pollution control will receive the magnitude of attention previously granted the federal interstate highway construction program. But such hints are poor pudding to the state and local officials who are faced with the actual task of pollution abatement.

Macdonald concedes that even under a system that would give Maine $7 million a year in antipollution money, every penny could be devoted, for two years, merely to overcoming Portland's situation.

AS THE TRULY major contributor to the state's pollution problem, industry must bear a good deal of the responsibility. Yet what has Maine industry done to remedy the problem it has had a big hand in creating?

Very little, Macdonald reports. For the most part, he says, Maine's largest polluting industries have confined themselves to "housekeeping" measures designed to remove symptoms but not really attacking the disease.

Some huge companies, like S.D. Warren Co. in Westbrook, on the Presumpscot River, have spent considerable sums in an effort to reduce the nuisance conditions prevalent in their areas. But none of these steps has been anywhere near the action that a real solution would require.

S.D. Warren now provides primary treatment to about 75 per cent of its waste materials, but secondary treatment for all of the firm's waste is necessary if its pollution is to be effectively controlled.

S.D. Warren still has done more than many other large companies, some of which have drawn up elaborate and expensive plans and surveys for pollution abatement only to have them gather thick coatings of dust in the executive suites.

Although municipalities have compiled anything but a glowing record in the field of sewage treatment, their progress is great when compared to that of industry.

Of the slightly more than 300,000 Maine residents who are served by municipal sewer lines, between 75,000 and 80,000 are also served by either primary or secondary sewage treatment plants.

While this represents only 25 per cent of the sewered population, it is a far better share than Maine's industrial polluters can boast.

Municipal activity has resulted in some marked improvements, especially along Maine's coast. Old Orchard Beach, for example, vastly improved its resort beach water quality via a modern sewerage and treatment project. The town's motive was economic rather than esthetic - it wants to stay a popular resort - but the improvement came nonetheless.

MANY INDUSTRIES and towns have hung back in the anti-pollution battle because of a provision of the federal pollution laws which makes industries ineligible for federal aid unless they do their anti-pollution work in a joint industrial-municipal treatment project.

Macdonald finds there has been a real reluctance on the part of many towns and industries to tackle pollution together.

Industry can point out that until such a joint venture is agreed upon, it is ineligible for federal aid and thus is unable to shoulder the massive financial burden involved.

An example of an area that would almost certainly have to form a community-industry project is Rumford, with its huge and sprawling Oxford Paper Co.

Oxfoed officials have conducted their own waste treatment survey, which they say indicates a cost of about $4.5 million.

Because the federal government requires an independent survey on a town-industry project, the paper company asked Rumford officials to theoretically sponsor it, with the bill for the survey being paid by the company.

For some reason the town decided to withhold such approval and instead will put the question in a warrant for its March meeting.

Yet while the paper company has already made its own survey and obviously has a good idea of the cost involved, and although it appears to be doing its best to prod the town into action, there has been no indication Oxford's top management has approved the budget that will be required to put any resulting plan into effect.

If a joint venture were undertaken, the federal government would theoretically pay half, the state 30 per cent and Oxford and Rumford share the remaining 20 per cent.

This is theory. Even if town and company agree on a survey, and cost, and get federal approval, there isn't going to be enough government money to see the project through unless it is spread over a number of years.

THERE IS ONE WAY that the state can provoke anti-pollution activity, if only to a limited extent.

Under a provision of the federal anti-pollution legislation, a state can go ahead as though Congress had appropriated the full $400 million-plus that was recommended, but with its own money. If the full amount is appropriated later, the state would be reimpursed the full federal share.

Thus, if Maine wished, it could okay a local project, or a local-industry project, and contribute 80 per cent of the cost, rather than its normal 30 per cent cost. The state would be gambling it would be repaid, which is a risky business, and at any rate Maine's resources are not so large that it could do a great deal of this sort of thing.

The only real example of federal enforcement of anti-pollution standards in Maine came last year when the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration held hearings in Belfast.

The result was a federal dictum that polluters on the Penobscot River and Penobscot Bay must make significant progress in restoring the waters to Class C standards before three years have elapsed. Class C allows boating, fishing, swimming, etc.

The reason the dictum was handed down had nothing to do with the general undesirability of pollution. It came instead under a clause in the federal law allowing federal initiative "wherever pollution results in a substantial economic injury".

Penobscot Bay had for years been a highly productive clam digging area on a commercial scale. Pollution suddenly ended that.

Also, major pollution abatement projects were already in the works in the area, and the federal action really only speeded an already begun process. At any rate, a primary treatment plant has been built for Bangor and plans have been completed for secondary treatment at Brewer, with construction to be well underway by 1970.

Belfast accelerated its plans for secondary treatment, the new schedule calling for completion during or before 1970.

THE MAJOR INDUSTRIAL polluters in the area, Standard Packaging Corp., Penobscot Paper Co., St. Regis Paper Co. and Great Northern Paper Co., all have treatment plants in the works that they say will be well into construction by 1970.

But this relative bright spot is conspicuously lonely on the Maine horizon. And its completion may well take a good deal of Maine's anti-pollution resources for the next few years.

In the final analysis, Macdonald and others concede, only two major changes in the state's and nation's unpleasant pollution situation appear likely. Neither is especially desirable.

First, pollution and its by-products may reach the stage at which public apathy will melt, in the face of a truly serious health, economy and liveability crisis. By that time, although the will to correct the situation has developed, it may well be too late.

Second, if and when our huge military expenditures in southeast Asia are reduced, federal attention may turn to pollution control, but unfortunately in the form of a pork barrel free-for-all. That development, Macdonald emphasizes, would not be healthy in his estimation.

This situation exists for the single reason that the mass

of Americans simply are not provoked by pollution.

For some reason, few people seem aware of the ultimate harm to their children and grandchildren that pollution can cause.

UNTIL THEY BECOME or can be made aware, and until the awareness arouses the type of indignation that seems to be a prerequisite for action in a democratic society, our rivers, lakes and ocean will get worse.

Lovely little white houses will get yellower and yellower; the river beds of organic waste will, like cheese, become riper with age, and their fumes will make people physically sick; the clams, shrimp, scallops and lobster that mean so much to Maine will become inedible or die; fishing will further decline both as a sport and as a commercial venture; and who will want to swim among the suds and other substances that will be increasingly present?

Okay with you, dear reader?

Captions under the pictures which accompanied this article.

EVER WONDERED HOW modern secondary treatment works? Man is actually harnessing nature's own forces, stimulating the growth of little creatures such as the stalked ciliated protoza (shown above, about 2,000 times magnification) and then keeping them so hungry they will feed on waste matter that otherwise would use up the oxygen in the rivers that receive it. The micro-organisms are bred in the first tank of a secondary treatment plant, which is aerated. They eat up the solids, wash with the water into a second "quiet" tank where they settle to the bottom while the treated water overflows into a third tank in which it is chlorinated prior to being released into river or ocean. Each time they settle in the second tank, the tiny creatures are pumped back to start work again in the first. The same process can be used to treat industrial wastes, but for this kind of task the aerobic organisms have to be tempted. They don't particularly like industrial waste either, and it has to have nutrients added before they'll gobble it up.

Penobscot Bay, like much of Maine, is beautiful to look at. But pollution has virtually put its commercial clammers out of business in only two years.

THE TOWN OF Ashland built a triple-lagoon sewage treatment complex, after warnings from the Water Improvement Commission, at a cost of $123,000 in 1965. The Aroostook River, in background, is now relatively clean for 20 miles, all the way down to Washburn. Food processing and potato plants pour in their wastes at Washburn, Presque Isle, Caribou and Fort Fairfield. The stretch above Caribou should be B-One, because the city draws its

drinking water from the river. But WIC officials say that most of the river is in violation of its classification, which varies from B-One to C.

OLD ORCHARD BEACH was roused to build the primary treatment plant pictured at right in 1960 after tests revealed its much acclaimed ocean front was so polluted even swimming could be regarded as hazardous. The town has capitalized on its expenditure (total cost, including federal and state aid, was $577,000) with bumper stickers which advertise OOB as having the cleanest beach in the world.

MERELY BUILDING a sewage treatment plant does not ensure the treated product will meet the standards demanded of such a project. Inefficient operation can mean that what comes out is actually worse than what went in. To help circumvent this possibility, the Water Improvement Commission, in conjunction with the University of Maine's civil engineering department, has held three week-long seminars for treatment plant operators. Another school is planned for this summer, and a permanent regional picture of a seminar held at Augusta in 1966.

THIS IS a sewage treatment outlet. The water flowing from it into the river is now clean enough to meet a B-2 classification, which allows normal recreational activities such as swimming, boating and fishing. If most of Maine could match this standard, it would have very little to worry about. Unfortunately it can't and it seems unlikely it ever will.

January 17, 1968 Lewiston Daily Sun

Paper Firm Sets Pollution Plan at $10,000,000

MILLINOCKET (AP) - The Great Northern Paper Co. will spend $10 million over the next two years to combat water pollution, the stockholders were told Tuesday.

"This is the most important single step we can take to reduce our part of the Penobscot River pollution," President Robert A. Haak said at the company's annual meeting.

Haak said a new recovery boiler unit will be installed to burn waste products from the sulphite pulp mill, which produces 50 tons of pulp a day, and recover chemicals used in cooking pulp wood.

"We will obtain a monetary return on our investment," he continued, "since the recovery process enables us to reclaim between 70 and 80 per cent of our pulping chemicals and to generate increased power from burning waste fuel."

He also said Great Northern will manufacture its sulphite pulp by the magnesium oxide rather than the kraft process.

January 19, 1968 Lewiston Daily Sun

Fighting Water Pollution Costly

The announcement by the Great Northern Paper Co. of Millinocket that it plans to spend $10,000,000 in the coming two years to reduce water pollution resulting from its paper making operations is an indication of the high cost of such work. The company's program will be a big step toward the eventual cleanup of the Penobscot River.

Great Northern plans to install a recovery boiler unit to burn waste products from the sulphite pulp mill, and recover between 70 and 80 percent of the chemicals used in cooking pulpwood. An additional byproduct will be the generation of more electric power.

Reduction of pollution by Great Northern is only one of the steps which will be necessary to clean up the Penobscot. Many other concerns pollute the river, and communities all along its course have used it as a handy sewage disposal agent through the years. The ten million dollars committed by Great Northern naturally is only a fraction of the overall cost which will have to be shared by industries and municipalities.

Both the need for water pollution abatement, and the process involved are familiar to people in the Androscoggin River valley. Through the past quarter century, the pulp and paper industry along the Androscoggin has done a pioneering job of eliminating pollution. The program has included changes in paper making processes to do away with the high pollution results of the sulphite paper process, chemical treatment of the river to restore the oxygen content in the water, lagooning of waste during the warmer months, and many other steps. The long and successful program involved millions of dollars which the firms contributed.

Whereas the chief pollution in the Androscoggin River 25 years ago was sulphite liquor from the paper mills, today it is the raw sewage discharged by the communities in the valley.

Last year, the Legislature classified the Androscoggin River giving it a C rating, which means water clean enough for recreational use, excluding swimming, and capable of supporting most fish life. The law, which went into effect last October, provides another eight years in which to reduce pollution in order to bring the water to the desired levels.

When the Androscoggin River cleanup first began 25 years ago, it seemed impossible that the river ever would be restored to a degree of purity so that it could be used for recreational purposes. Yet, such use is only a few short years away at present.

Cities and towns along the river have been given a timetable, under the new law, for the various steps which must be taken to plan and implement the pollution abatement program. Fortunately,

state and federal funds are available to help the communities. Otherwise, the multi-million dollar cost would be prohibitive.

Cleaning up the Penobscot River will not be as time consuming as the Androscoggin. For one thing, the pollution is not as severe. For another, the knowledge gained on the Androscoggin will speed the work. But most important of all is the awareness on the part of the Legislature, and the people of Maine, of the need for clean waters and the determination to see that pollution is reduced.

An earlier beginning would have made the cost of cleaning up our major rivers lower. But it still will be well worth the price of restoring these major natural resources of our state.

January 25, 1968 Lewiston Daily Sun

LEGISLATORS SPLIT ON
POLLUTION FUND

AUGUSTA (AP) - A proposal for the state to advance in certain cases the federal shares of pollution control costs split the Appropriations Committee Wednesday, with seven members urging passage.

Three signed the minority report against the bill.

One day earlier, Gov. Curtis had warned that little could be done to fight water pollution in Maine this year without the legislation.

He said that because of the cost of the Vietnam War, the federal government has cut back from $3.2 million to $1.8 million its contribution for eight anti-pollution projects in Maine.

The bill, tabled in the Senate until Thursday, would permit the state to forward to municipalities the federal share when construction of abatement facilities was ready to begin before funds became available in Washington.

January 26, 1968 Lewiston Daily Sun

CURTIS SIGNS PROPOSAL TO
PAY POLLUTION FUND

AUGUSTA (AP) - Gov. Curtis Thursday signed into law a measure allowing the state to pre-pay the federal government's share of anti-pollution projects in Maine.

The law, part of Curtis's special session package, is a limited version of the original measure but it still provoked spirited debate in the House and Senate.

It allows the state to advance up to $3.5 million from an existing anti-pollution bond issue to cover the federal share of 15 local sewerage projects now underway in the state.

Federal anti-pollution funding has been lagging for some time because of the Vietnam war's money demands.

Sen. Richard N. Berry, R-Cape Elisabeth, explained that the new law is intended to be temporary, and covers only those 15 projects already in advanced approval stages.

Earlier in the day, the House first rejected 54 to 79 a minority Appropriations Committee report that the measure be killed In the Senate, the measure had passed 30-4.

The state "will be embarking on a dangerous venture," charged Rep. Harold Bragdon, R-Perham, if it passed the bill. He said the federal money may not be forthcoming.

But Rep. John D. Martin, D-Eagle Lake, said a number of states are already pre-financing, including Connecticut and New York. He added that President Johnson has assured Gov. Curtis that the $3.2 million in federally promised funds will be paid when the money situation eases.

In the Senate, Berry said that Maine is "just now getting into high gear with anti-pollution projects," and although the federal government is continuing to provide some funds, the level is insufficient to keep all approved projects moving.

He said that unless the bill is passed "the program will grind to a halt," with "appalling consequences."

Sen. Carlton Day Reed, Jr., D-Woolwich, supported the measure saying that despite recent advances, "Maine is getting ahead (in the anti-pollution field) like a lobster, backward."

January 30, 1968

Annual Review Edition
Lewiston Daily Sun,
and Lewiston Evening Journal

L-A Pollution Control Authority Formed; 1976 Deadline Is Fixed For Androscoggin River Clean-Up

By Dick Plante

The first concrete steps toward truly cleaning up the Androscoggin River were taken during 1967. From now on however, it'll be a long, hard row to hoe.

Initial steps toward cleaning up the river required only a couple pieces of legislation. But the real task - the real

problem - lies in the staggering costs involved in constructing facilities that will stop the flow of pollutants into the river.

An indication of the cost, in Lewiston-Auburn along, resulted from studies of the sewage systems and the feasibility of a joint effort in the construction of a treatment system. The studies by the Camp, Dresser and McKee firm of Boston indicated, at that time, that the cost of a treatment plant along would exceed $10 million.

This didnot include the cost of hooking the two systems to the single plant or the cost of rebuilding large sections of the existing systems.

Authority Set Up

Early in 1967, the 103rd Maine Legislature approved the proposed classification of the Androscoggin River along its main stem and several major tributaries. A "C" classification was designated along the main stem of the river and most tributaries. In some cases, however, a "B" classification was approved.

Also at the regular session of the 103rd Legislature, a bill was introduced which created the Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority.

This bill, an emergency measure sponsored by Rep. Louis Jalbert (D) of Lewiston, provided for a five-man board to supervise the anti-pollution effort.

The Authority is a quasimunicipal body in that it operates in a manner similar to the city government. It has the power to make assessments and to float bonds and other privileges.

Members of the group, with the exception of one, are named in the charter of the authority, by position. These include Lewiston Public Works Department Director William R. Adams, Public Works Board Chairman Aurele Bosse, Auburn Water District Superintendent Earle Tarr Jr., and the chairman of the trustees of the Water District, Thomas Webster.

The fifth member of the group is Robert W. Hudson, division supervisor for the Central Maine Power Co.

Planning Started

Several meetings were held during 1967 and the group met with representatives of at least one engineering firm to discuss updating the studies made several years ago. No commitment had been made as of the end of the year, however.

In Lewiston-Auburn, the cost of building and operating a treatment facility will be additionally expensive in that the proposal is to treat industrial waste as well as domestic sewage.

Elsewhere along the Androscoggin River, most communities have begun planning for sewerage treatment facilities. Several communities have completed plans and one has a treatment facility in operation at the present time.

The Maine Water Improvements Commission, which must enforce the new restrictions on the river, reported every community has done at least some planning work.

Date Conflict

Many industries, particularly the paper companies along the river, have also started studies and plans for treatment facilities, according to Dr. Walter Lawrance, retired Bates College professor who has served as Androscoggin rivermaster for 21 years.

Dr. Lawrance pointed out that some controversy exists over the date set for completion of the treatment facilities. The legislature has set 1976 as the deadline but a Public Health Services order several years ago set 1973 as the deadline.

The Bates College professor said he believes that the Public Health Services deadline should take precedence but said he does not believe that the government will press the matter of the deadline, stating that the Federal appropriation has been drastically cut. This affects funds to assist communities in planning and constructing treatment facilities.

Another Doubt

Dr. Lawrance, who is employed by the firms along the river to control industrial pollution under a court decree handed down in 1947, also expressed another doubt about the proposed treatment facilities.

He stated that there is a definite shortage of qualified individuals to operate treatment plants. The professor also said there is a shortage of the equipment needed as well.

Dr. Lawrance said that the emphasis placed on anti-pollution by the Federal government has placed a heavy demand on the manufacturers of equipment used in treatment plants and said that a definite shortage exists. He also said that there is a tremendous lack of skilled operators pointing out that until recently there has not been the need for this type of skilled individual.

He said he has serious doubts, because of these shortages, whether even the 1976 deadline can be met. Dr. Lawrance also noted that the shortage of money won't help the situation.

Industry at Work

The professor's post as rivermaster apparently isn't affected by the classification of the river. He'll remain as rivermaster

as long as any industrial pollutants are being dumped into the river and that'll be for a few years yet.

Dr. Lawrance did indicate that industry along the river, even into New Hampshire, is taking steps to conform to the new regulations.

He pointed out that the new International Paper Co. plant at Jay has primary treatment facilities and has a plant to treat domestic waste. He said that secondary treatment may be required to maintain the prescribed water standard, however.

Dr. Lawrance also reported that plans are being developed by the International Paper Co. at Livermore and by the Oxford Paper Co. at Rumford.

Most observers believe that additional steps toward cleaning up the river will be made during 1968.

January 30, 1968

Lewiston Daily Sun and
Lewiston Evening Journal
Annual Review

Berlin Bonanza
Brown Company Expansion Costs $30 Million; Merger Triples Size

By Sue Littlefield

BERLIN, N.H. - A $20 million expansion program has been in progress for two years at the Berlin-Gorham Division of the Brown Company which has plants in the United States, Canada and Europe. During the expansion, new facilities were constructed and equipment modernized at the Cascade and Burgess mills.

The Brown Company, one of the world's largest and most diversified producers of forest products, originally was founded in 1852 at Berlin as a sawmill producing cellulose pulp from which paper and various products were made.

During the expansion program an NSSC (neutral sulphite semi-chemical) pulp mill and ninepoint paper machine for production of corrugating medium were set up which adds $10 million dollars to sales, provides for greater utilization of hardwoods, waste kraft pulp and paper machine broke. The 178-inch paper machine produces 200 tons per day and the machine speed is 1,100 feet per minute.

The expansion program is almost half of the $54 million expended in capital improvements company-wide during the two-year period.

Capacity Hiked

The kraft pulp mill capacity was increased from 330 to 625

tons per day which doubles the Berlin kraft pulp production. It also substantially reduces pulp purchases from outside sources with resulting economies and provides some pulp for the outside market.

Also increased was the capacity of the kraft bleachery from 250 to 700 tons per day. This increase provides facilities to bleach the entire kraft pulp mill production and gives the company the latitude necessary to manufacture bleached or unbleached papers, as called for in the market place.

To improve the company's position in the market pulp business the No. 2 pulp dryer was rebuilt to produce 100 per cent drying of excess pulp.

A machine used in the manufacture of toilet tissue, called Miss Nibroc, was rebuilt and production was increased by 50 per cent.

Hayssen wrapper, equipment used for automatic wrapping of cut sised papers, bound, duplicator and mimeo, was installed. This speeds up production of office copy papers, reduces costs and improves packaging.

Merger Triples Size

Production was increased by 30 per cent on the No. 1 paper machine after it was rebuilt. It is a 148-inch machine used for the manufacture of various converting grades.

Brown Company's largest paper machine is Mister Nibroc, a giant 196-inch machine which has been in operation for 20 years at the Cascade Mill. The machine, which produces all the creped brown and white Kraft paper used for Nibroc towels and wipers, makes a mile of 16-foot wide paper toweling every five minutes for 50 million paper towels. During a year's time Brown Company produces enough paper towels to create a path one towel wide and a million and a half miles long.

In January of 1966, the Brown Company acquired a controlling interest in KVP Sutherland Paper Co. and in May of 1967 the firm was merged into the Brown Company.

The merger tripled the size of the Brown Company. Assets of the new firm are about $160 million dollars and sales top $200 million dollars. In 1968 sales are expected to reach $250 million dollars. The Brown Company now owns, leases manages 4,500,000 acres of timberland in New England and Canada.

The merger brought together two pioneers in the paper industry, the Brown Company and KVP Sutherland Paper Co. which was the result of a previous merger.

KVP was incorporated in 1909 as the Kalamazoo Vegetable Parchment Co. and began in an abandoned beet-sugar mill. The

firm manufactured an insoluble grease-resistant vegetable parchment for the meat and dairy industries. The company later diversified into printed food-protection papers and cartons; a pulp mill, paper machines, printing presses and other facilities were acquired, making it a self-sufficient company. KVP contributed to KVP Sutherland its timber rights to 5,400 square miles of timberlands in northern Ontario and a pulp mill with a good water supply at Espanola, Ont.

Sutherland was founded just after World War I at Kalamazoo, Mich., and was a pioneer in coating and sealing packages. With the completion of a large mill for the making of paperboard, it became the Sutherland Paper Co. It began making egg cartons, paper plates, vegetable boxes and paper cans and during World War II, when the demand for new packaging products was high, Sutherland emerged as one of the leaders in its field.

In 1950, Sutherland erected a paper specialties plant at Santa Clara, Calif., and subsequent acquisitions and additions were made in New York, Kalamazoo, Chicago and San Jose.

The new firm which has been created by the merger has 11,500 employes and operates 22 plants and mills in 10 states and Canada. The company also own interest in a British converting company with plants near London and in South Wales. In 1966, more than $200 million of productive capacity was decentralized into eight operating divisions. A realignment of corporate management has been completed to provide management for these divisions and corporate staff support.

Modern management control systems have been installed to insure that the new organization with its enlarged product lines has the required information to provide prompt and efficient action for future profitability.

The following is an explanation of the eight divisions which make up the Brown Company:

The service products division manufactures and markets paper and board products for the grocery, bakery and food service industries; absorbent towels and tissues for industry and institutions and a variety of paper cups, plates and freezer wrap and shelf lining for consumers.

The pulp, paper and board division products go into consumer packaging, shipping containers, printing and office papers and technical industrial products.

The match division manufactures advertising book matches and the packaging division creates packaging and packaging systems for food and other consumer products.

The international division represents the overseas interest of the organization. The Brown Forest Industries Limited (formerly the KVP. Co. Ltd.) is one of Canada's largest producers of

pulp, paper packaging and consumer products. The building materials division is a major producer of decorative hardwood plywood and veneers.

The last division of the eight is the woodlands division which has the responsibility of conserving and harvesting in 4,500,000 acres of timber resources, one of the largest available to any company in North America.

Open House

Open house was held at the Cascade and Burgess Mills on Nov. 19, 1967, for the first time since 1956 and many changes have taken place. The Brown Co. mills began in 1892 with facilities and equipment being installed during the years as conditions warranted. Consequently the papermaking process is not in a logical sequence.

The pulp manufactured in the Burgess Mill is used to make paper on the paper machines, at Burgess, Riverside and Cascade. Also some of the pulp is prepared for shipment to other company locations and for sale on the market.

Listed below is a brief description of the equipment, operations and processes to be seen on a typical tour of the two mills.

The "brown" or cooked pulp and spent black liquor coming from the digesters must be separated by a washing process in the "brown" pulpwashers. Vacuum washers utilize fresh water to wash the pulp clean and free it of cooking liquor. The spent black liquor then starts through a recovery process.

Little New Lime

In the digesters the wood chips are cooked or "digested" with cooking (white) liquor to form wood pulp. This process is similar to that of home pressure cookers. The binders holding the cellulose or wood fibers together are removed in the digesters. As in making a stew in a pressure cooker, the additives, temperature, pressure and cooking time must ve accurately controlled. The solution is then pulp and spent black liquor. The digested solution is literally blown to a storage tank, thus the term "blow" describing a single batch of digested solution.

The lime mud from the causticizing operation is washed and processed through the lime kiln. The mud is dried and converted to lime by heat in the kiln, then re-used in the causticizing reaction. Under ordinary conditions, only relatively small amounts of fresh lime are added to the chemical process in making pulp.

Five Stages

At the bleach plant, the dirt-free or clean pulp is treated with a number of chemicals. The chemicals react with the

impurities of the unbleached light brown pulp and the pulp goes through five stages of bleaching and washing. The pulp in the final stage has essentially been bleached white. The white or bright pulp is pumped to paper machines and converted to paper or to pulp dryers where the water is removed in preparation for sale on the market.

Also to be seen are the pulp storage facilities. Most of the pulp used at the Cascade Mill comes through underground pipes from the Burgess pulp mill. The pulp is stored temporarily in large stainless steel or tile tanks in the Cascade Mill then is pumped from the tanks to the pulpers and refiners where the pulp is mixed and beaten to the proper consistency for paper making.

Between the paper machines there is a headbox, a reservoir containing a solution made up of 99.5 per cent water and 0.5 per cent cellulose fibers. From the headbox, called the "wet end" of the paper machine, this solution called "stock" is permitted to flow out on a rapidly moving endless Fourdrinier wire.

How Paper Is Made

The water content of the sheet of stock is drained or sucked down through the fine mesh of this expensive wire, leaving the sheet still on the wire. The wet sheet then leaves the wire and passes on to a felt blanket which supports it through the first set of dryer rolls. It is a sheet of paper which gains strength as it dries while passing over a long series of steam-filled dryer rolls.

At the "dry end" of the paper machine the finished sheet of paper is wound on a reel. When the roll of paper has reached the proper diameter, the backtender puts a new empty reel in position. He then breaks the sheet which immediately starts to wind up on the new reel. Although reels of paper vary in weight according to the diameter of the reel and type of paper being used, most reels weigh approximately 3,600 pounds when filled.

Each full reel of paper is transferred from the dry end of the paper machine to another machine called a winder using an overhead crane. The sheet is passed through the winder and on to cores and is then wound up on the cores. During this process the edges are trimmed and rotating blades called "slitters" cut the sheet into smaller rolls.

Towel Paper

The tissue paper machine is located near the Towel Converting Dept. Built in 1961 and installed in 1962 it produces paper used for Nibroc toilet tissue sold to the same customers who buy Nibroc paper towels. Nearby is a three-ply winder, roll winder, rotary knife and packaging equipment.

From Mister Nibroc rolls of creped towel paper are moved to

the Towel Converting department where more than 100 women operate machines which slit the large rolls, fold the paper towels, interlock them and count them before they are wrapped and packed. They are sold to many industrial establishments and institutions.

In the finishing room are located large machines called supercalenders and embossers. Supercalenders give the sheet a glossy finish and embossers give the sheet a ribbed appearance.

Today each individual in the United States consumer more than 500 pounds of paper per year. This will grow to 675 pounds by 1980 and according to the Bureau of Census there will be 245,313,000 persons in this country alone and there will be additional millions in other countries. The Brown Company will play a major role in supplying the world with these products.

January 30, 1968

Lewiston Daily Sun and
Lewiston Evening
Journal Annual Review

Oxford Paper Merges with Ethyl, Spends $4.5 Million at Rumford

RUMFORD - The year 1967 was without a doubt the most momentous in the 68-year history of Oxford Paper Company.

After completing a record year in production, sales and earnings in 1966, Oxford announced jointly with the Ethyl Corporation on April 13 that the boards of directors of the two companies had approved a merger of Oxford into Ethyl. The Richmond, Va. corporation, which manufactures petroleum and industrial chemicals, plastics and aluminum products, also makes natural kraft paper and board for use in bags, boxes and other containers in its Albermarle Paper Company division.

The merger was approved by stockholders of both companies July 26, and became effective Aug. 1. For each two shares of Oxford common stock, Ethyl issued one share of a new Ethyl voting cumulative preferred stock with a $240 dividend, convertible into one and three-tenths shares of Ethyl common stock.

Oxford President William N. Chisholm was named president of the entire Oxford-Albemarle paper complex, and Chisholm, Oxford Executive Vice President Andrew M. McBurney, and another Oxford director, Dr. Thomas W. McKnew, chairman of the board of trustees of the National Geographic Society, were elected to the Ethyl Corporation board of directors.

Huge Assets

The combined Ethyl operation now has total assets of around $500-million (based on combined 1966 figures), plants in 14 states, and some 14,000 employees. The enlarged paper and paper board

segment covers both the kraft and white paper fields, and benefits from the combined research facilities of both Oxford and Ethyl.

The Rumford mill, largest of three operated by Oxford, had another busy year in 1967, although preliminary figures indicate that total production did not hit the record high achieved in 1966. With the exception of the usual two-day holiday shutdowns on the Fourth of July, Labor Day and Christmas, the mill operated 24 hours a day seven days a week throughout the year.

Employment remained around the 2,800 mark despite minor fluctuations, and the 1967 payroll exceeded $20-million.

Union-management relations remained at a high level in 1967 as the second year of a two-year labor agreement covering more than 2,000 employes started July 1 with a general three percent pay increase. A new salary plan was also put into effect for those salaried employees not previously covered.

Last June the unions approved the company's new three-year pension proposal. The major provision was a pension based on three dollars per month for each year of service for all employes who retired prior to July 1, 1967, and $3.25 per month per year of service for employes retiring after July 1, 1967.

Production Records

New production records were set in a number of mill departments during 1967. The pulp mill established a daily average production of 594 tons of softwood and hardwood kraft pulp. Trimmer crews set a new record in March, broke that record in June, and then set a new single-shift mark in July as they trimmed 100,368 pounds in one eight-hour period. The electro-chemical plant chalked up record production of chlorine and caustic when it had all 288 electrolytic cells operating at once for the third time in 25 years.

Number five paper machine had a record 78-hour run without a web break, from Nov. 8 to 11, and the roll finishing department started the new year off right by wrapping 978 units (rolls and packages) for a record-breaking 998 and three-quarters tons in 24 hours Jan. 3, 1968.

Mail officials are quick to point out that record production by any single department or operating unit is impossible unless all operating units and service departments involved in the papermaking process are working at a high degree of efficiency.

Modernization

An estimated $4.5-million was expended during 1967 in the continuing program of modernization and improvements at Oxford's Rumford mill. The lion's share of this outlay went to the new $3-million woodroom which was completed and started up around the

first of December. Pulpwood is unloaded from railroad cars and trucks into a 700-foot flume through which it is floated in bleach plant waste water into the woodroom for debarking and chipping. The new woodroom handles all softwood requirements, and with the installation of additional equipment will eventually take care of all Rumford mill wood requirements.

A highlight of construction associated with the woodroom project was the use of a helicopter to air-lift more than nine tons of steel framing and chip processing equipment to the top of a 100-foot chip silo adjacent to the Kamyr digester. This first use of a helicopter for construction work in the company's history went off without a hitch as the whirlybird made about a dozen flights to move the heavy equipment.

New Trimmer

A new trimmer, capable of trimming sheets up to 52 inches by 72 inches, went into operation at Oxford early in 1967, and several major improvements were carried out on numbers 3, 6, 7 and 9 paper machines. These jobs were done with a minimum overtime, and the number six machine job was termed one of the best planned and executed paper machine jobs ever done at the Rumford mill.

Early in March a huge new saveall began operating on number 12 paper machine. This $250,000 installation allows the reuse of half a million gallons of white water every 24 hours, and reclaims more than five tons of fibers, fillers and other materials which were previously lost each day into the Androscoggin River. A number of other programs brought about a signigicant reduction in water usage, and detailed planning continued on pollution abatement facilities scheduled for installation in the next few years.

Gave Park Land

Oxford and its wholly-owned subsidiary, the Rumford Falls Power Company, paid a 1967 personal and property tax bill of $1,388, 792 to the Town of Rumford. This was an increase of $289,479 over the 1966 tax and represented more than 64 percent of the town's tax bill.

Two 1967 Stephens High School graduates, David T. Parise and Dennis R. Brown, entered the freshman class at the University of Maine in September with Oxford Paper scholarships worth $2,800 each. Two such scholarships are presented each year to sons of employes working in Maine.

A pledged donation of $34,000 by Oxford Paper Company was the major contribution to the success of a fund drive to keep Rumford's community center, the Rumford Mechanics Institute, open in 1968. And finally the new Rangeley Lakes State Park was dedicated in July. Nearly half of the 620-acre park is located on land donated to the state by Oxford.

January 30, 1968

Lewiston Daily Sun and
Lewiston Evening Journal
Annual Review

Jay I.P. Co. Mill Sports Three Huge Papermakers

JAY -- The new year 1968 gets underway with International Paper Company's Androscoggin Mill at Jay featuring three of the world's largest paper machines in their respective grades.

In late December 1967, the world's largest 'coated' paper machine went into production at Androscoggin Mill, turning out a roll of paper over 280 inches in width. The gigantic machine is geared to travel at speeds up to 2,500 feet per minute. It will consume around 175 tons of prime spruce-fir groundwood daily and an additional 125 tons of kraft pulp. The paper will be an 'on-the-machine' double-coated sheet for publication purposes.

Groundwood Mill

Completion of a new groundwood mill to feed the gigantic machine was also a major industrial step of the year by I-P in Maine. The expansion also brought about the necessity of adding one more boiler to the mill's power plant, providing an additional 50,000 pounds of steam per hour. One more 25,000 kilowatt turbo-generator was also added to take care of the extra electrical load needed in the new complex.

In December 1965, the world's largest carbonizing paper machine -- which produces a roll of paper around 210 inches in width -- came into production.

In January 1966, the world's largest register bond machine was operational. This machine also produces a roll measuring 210 inches in width. Paper here is turned out in five standard weights in eight different colors. Combined tonnage of the two machines is about 80,000 tons per year. Both are designed to travel at a speed of around 2,000 feet per minute.

Big Digester

One continuous digester with a daily capacity of 500 tons feeds pulp to these three machines and to machines at the Otis Mill, five miles down river at Chisholm. As stated, 125 tons of kraft pulp from this digester are used daily in the groundwood pulp mixture fed into the gigantic 'coated' paper machine.

In the kraft process, three different classes of wood species are used -- spruce-fir, pine-hemlock and hardwoods. Each class of wood chips are stored in a chip storage silo, each having a capacity of 200 tons, before they are conveyed to the digester. This type of storage facilitates the selection of wood chips for the pulp mixture.

Some 1,400 persons are employed in paper manufacturing at the Androscoggin and Otis Mills. Most of these workers come from within a 20-mile radius of the mill.

At the Androscoggin Mill, the payroll is about $150,000 weekly. Otis Mill's payroll amounts to $90,000 weekly.

Forest Holdings

International Paper Company now owns some 1,140,000 acres of Maine forest lands, all of which are under intensive multiple use forest management. At the present time, around 500,000 acres of these lands are part of the American Tree Farm System which assures maximum use of woodland acres through the multiple use concept.

The capacity of the woodyard at Androscoggin Mill is presently 100,000 cords. The kraft mill with its continuous digester and the new groundwood mill have a daily consumption of 1,175 cords of wood. About 50 percent of the wood used at Androscoggin Mill is purchased from independent suppliers, many of whom live within a 70-mile radius of the mill. Chips made from saw mill wastes are included in this source of purchased fiber for the mill. The other 50 percent is harvested from company-owned lands.

Recreation Use

Multiple use management promotes the utilization of forest acres for: a continual supply of quality wood year after year; protection of the watershed against soil erosion and to preserve aesthetic values by leaving protective strips of timber along lake and pond shores and along the banks of rivers and streams; protection of woldlife populations so that game birds and animals are afforded better food and shelter through selective cutting; and the development of outdoor recreation facilities for the general public.

International Paper Company has built and maintains over 400 miles of all-weather roads on its lands in Maine which are open for general public use. Over 40 campsites, which are supervised and maintained by the Maine Forest Service, are also located on I-P lands. Other company lands are made available for private cottage lot leases and public boat launching facilities.

In a general manner, the lands of I-P are managed to afford the broadest possible benefit for the greatest number of people. As needs arise, other lands will be made available for use by the public.

Air, Water Treatment

With much attention being centered on ultra-modern manufacturing plants and forest management, I-P also has built into its new Androscoggin Mill the latest equipment known to alleviate odors which come from the kraft pulping process.

Among the facilities used is a black liquor oxidation tower. Other processes are to be built into the plant in the future to further lessen the amount of odor.

Each paper machine, in the two-mill complex, is equipped with a 'save-all' device which is designed to remove and reprocess 100 percent of the surplus white water which comes from the machines. Prior to this equipment, surplus fibers in the white water were carried away to the river.

Androscoggin Mill is also equipped with a clarifying basin measuring some 190 feet in diameter with a capacity of 3,000,000 gallons. This removes about 90 percent of all settleable solids which come from the mill effluent.

Ultra-modern paper machines (the largest of their type in the world); intensive forest management to assure a continual supply of quality wood year after year; concern for and development of facilities for public use of company lands for outdoor recreation; and installation of equipment to alleviate air and water problems should indicate strongly the intent of International Paper Company to continue to be an important spoke in the wheel of Maine's industrial progress.

February 5, 1968 Lewiston Evening Journal

Androscoggin River Is WLU Program Topic

"The Androscoggin River" was the topic of an interesting talk presented Thursday afternoon before members of the WLU Book Review Club at the clubhouse on Elm Street, Auburn.

Speaker was Mrs. John Labbie of Auburn who gave a detailed report of the river's statistics and said that through the years its name has been spelled 60 different ways.

The last log drive took place in 1930, she said, and the last pulp log drive, in 1964. At one time there was a cave underneath the falls, and where the Androscoggin joins the little Androscoggin many salmon were caught. At one period in the river's history there were 6,000 Indians at Canton, and the river provided food for them.

Mrs. Labbie related some of the exploits of the courageous river drivers, and also told of incidents involving early settlers in the area, stories contained in diaries and handed down from family to family.

One of the amusing stories told by Mrs. Labbie concerned a wedding which took place on the banks of the Androscoggin, with the bride on one side and the bridegroom on the other, separated because of the rising river. The minister, standing beside one or the other, conducted the ceremony in stentorian tones.....

February 6, 1968 Lewiston Evening Journal

Water Supply Below Normal In Androscoggin, Sebago

The Androscoggin River system and Sebago Lake contained less than normal amounts of water at the end of January, according to a report from the Water Resources of Division of the U.S. Geological Survey.

The report, prepared in cooperation with the Maine Public Utilities Commission, also states that the river is nearly as full as a year ago.

A word of caution is injected into the report however, with regard to the Androscoggin system, as it is pointed out that should inflow during February continue to be below normal as expected, some curtailment of draft on the Androscoggin system may be necessary before the spring breakup.

During the month of January, runoff ranged slightly more than normal in the far north of the state to only slightly more than one-half normal in the southwest. Precipitation averaged 71 per cent of normal statewide. Groundwater levels declined, the USGS reports, are below average and lower than a year ago.

Total quantity of water in usable storage is 25 per cent above average and 42 per cent greater than last year, while water content of the snow cover ranged from three to more than six inches at the end of the month. February runoff is expected to range from about normal in the north to considerably below normal in the south as temperatures and precipitation are average.

Runoff on the little Androscoggin River near South Paris during January amounted to 58 per cent of normal as compared to 116 per cent in December and 80 per cent in November.

Precipitation at some of the reporting stations in the region are at Errol, N.H., two inches; Gulf Island Dam, Lewiston, 2.5 inches; and Rumford, 1.85 inches.

Ground water level reported in Auburn for January was 5.37 feet below the land surface, a net change during the month of minus 1.28 feet. During the previous 12 months the level in Auburn is down 0.77 feet.

At Middle Dam in the Rangeley Lakes the groundwater level was 8.2 feet below land surface, a decline of 1.5 feet during the month and a change over the last 12 months of one foot. At Brunswick the level was 34.22 feet below land surface, a drop of 0.26 feet during the month and an increase of 1.66 feet during the past 12 months.

Water storage in the Androscoggin River basin at the end of

January was 38 per cent of full volume as compared with 39 per cent as of the same time last year and compares with the 49 per cent average. At the end of December the storage was 49 per cent of full volume, 53 per cent in November and 60 per cent in October.

February 6, 1968 Lewiston Evening Journal

New Law on Funds For Pollution
Abatement To Mean Action This Year

AUGUSTA (AP) -- The new law permitting the state to advance the federal share of pollution abatement projects will mean possible action this year in a dozen areas of Maine, Gov. Curtis said today.

He told a news conference that at his invitation, the Water and Air Environmental Improvement Commission met today with federal and local officials and representatives of the Georgia Pacific Co. to work out a joint effort to reduce pollution of the St. Croix River at Baileyville. The International Joint Commission has urged immediate action to clean up that border river.

Curtis said Sen. Edmund S. Muskie, D-Maine, told him the Department of Interior announced approval of the prefinding plans of several states including Maine.

Federal money anticipated for pollution abatement was held back but the government said that if states paid out the federal share of such projects, they would be reimbursed when the federal money became available.

The legislative special session last month approved such a prefunding plan for Maine. The federal share varies but is generally 30 to 50 per cent of the total cost.

Curtis said Muskie will hold a public hearing of the Senate Subcommittee on Water and Air Pollution Feb. 13 at the University of Maine in Portland.

The topic, he said, will be the problem with thermal pollution as it relates to the proposed Maine Yankee Atomic power plant at Wiscasset.

Curtis said he will attend and so will several state department heads "to represent our state's concern that the public interest is fully protected."

February 7, 1968 Lewiston Evening Journal

Muskie Committee Begins Study Of Heat Pollution

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The Senate public works subcommittee,

headed by Sen. Edmund S. Muskie, D-Maine, has begun a study of possible pollution of rivers by water used previously to cool generators.

Muskie said Tuesday that by the end of the 1970's about one-sixth of the total fresh water runoff in the United States will be required to cool the water used in generation power by coal, oil or nuclear energy.

Muskie added that nuclear generators required 40 per cent more cooling water than other generation methods.

Little real effort has been made to control these waste discharges, Muskie said.

February 13, 1968 Lewiston Daily Sun

SEN. MUSKIE, DUNHAM
CLASH ON POLLUTION

Portland Hearing On Thermal
Waste Stirs Wide Debate

PORTLAND (AP) — A Senate investigator and a private utility executive disagreed Tuesday whether thermal pollution should be controlled before or after it becomes a problem.

Sen. Edmund S. Muskie, D-Maine, speaking at a public hearing of his subcommittee on air and water pollution, said: "We feel it's more important to make sure our waters don't suffer from thermal pollution before the problem is actually created."

He favors a moratorium on nuclear power plant construction until more is begun---just what effect thermal pollution has on marine life.

Thermal pollution is the adverse effect on marine life of water used to cool a reactor and returned to a river or stream at a temperature higher than the surrounding water.

But President William H. Dunham of Maine Yankee Atomic Power Co., which is starting construction of a nuclear plant in Wiscasset, took a different view.

Muskie asked him if it wouldn't be a good idea to have built-in cooling devices before the plant goes into operation. Dunham replied he didn't feel it made much sense to solve a problem before its existence is established. The extra cost probably wouldn't be necessary.

Stand Is Backed

Dunham's testimony that there probably would be no adverse effects was supported by several witnesses.

Among them were Raeburn W. MacDonald, chief engineer of the Maine Water and Air Environmental Commission, and Dr. John H. Ryther, biology chairman at the Woods Hole, Mass., Oceanographic Institute.

Muskie asked if Ryther could be absolutely sure that all marine life, including food for valuable fish, mollusks and crustaceans, would survive in the avea around the Wiscasset plant.

Ryther replied, "It's a gamble."

"Well, who would be taking the gamble?" the senator asked.

"I suppose it would be the people of Maine," the biologist said.

Muskie asked Dunham if a year's delay in building at Wiscasset, while more information is being gathered, would be a hardship.

Seen Disastrous

It could prove disastrous, Dunham replied.

Several other witnesses urged caution. Gov. Curtis asked that installation of a water-cooling plant be considered. Sea & Shore fisheries Commissioner Ronald W. Green called for a two-year study to ascertain possible effects on marine life.

Nobody seemed worried about radiation in the water used to cool the reactors. The Atomic Energy Commission has strict regulations on that aspect.

Dunham testified there might be times when some radioactive waste could be discharged with the cooling water. But the amounts would be so small, he said, that the water would be safe to drink.

"Well, I wouldn't want to drink it," Muskie commented.

The subcommittee goes to Montpelier, Vt., Wednesday for a similar hearing.

February 13, 1968 Lewiston Daily Sun

Thermal Pollution Hearing

Raising the ramperature of water by dumping warmer water into it is nothing new. Industry has been doing it through the years. But concern for what this thermal pollution is doing to the nation's available water resources is something new and it is likely to lead to legislation.

A pioneer in the exploration of the effects of thermal pollution on fish and other aquatic life is U.S. Senator Edmund S. Muskie of Maine. Today, in Portland, Sen. Muskie will conduct a

public hearing for his Subcommittee on Air and Water Pollution of the U.S. Senate Committee on Public Works. The purpose of the hearing, one of several to be held in the country, is to receive testimony on the impact of massive hot water discharges, especially from power plants.

Steam plants generating electricity, whether fueled by coal or oil, discharge large amounts of cooling water. But nuclear plants, which are being built in mounting numbers, require as much as forty per cent more cooling water, the senator said.

"Present predictions," he explained, "indicate nuclear power plants will provide an increasing share of the projected expansion of the demand for electricity and, because of their size, safety requirements and relative heat inefficiency, the nuclear plants will contribute large quantities of waste heat to the nation's rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters." He hopes that the hearings will create "a public awareness that in applying technological advances we must not ignore the need to maintain a balanced environment" and show whether there is need for additional legislation.

The effects of thermal pollution naturally will vary with the location of the plants and the size of the bodies of water or rivers into which discharge is made. Under some conditions the heating of the water can prove a boon rather than a threat. A case in point is the study currently underway to see whether thermal pollution from the Cousin's Island power plant of the Central Maine Power Co. can be utilized to stimulate the growth of lobsters in the equivalent of underwater farms. A difference of a few degrees means a lot.

During the warm months of the summer in New England, and through more of the year in the southern states, thermal pollution can so change water temperatures as to alter completely the life cycles of various types of marine plant and animal life. Combined with the pollution from sewage and industrial waste, a new dimension of pollution problems can result.

It has taken the United States a long, long time to move toward cleaner waters. The work which has been accomplished shows that control of water pollution is economically possible and socially desirable. But the emphasis has been on waste entering the water, rather than changes in the temperature of water used for various processes. Getting at the facts of thermal pollution will make it possible to take action while the problem remains within bounds, and thereby less forbidding from a financial standpoint.

In time, man must learn to utilize natural resources but to avoid poisoning his own environment in the process. Population growth continues at such a rapid pace that moving on to a new location no longer is a substitute for intelligent planning.

February 13, 1968 Lewiston Evening Journal

Pollution Abatement Program Will Succeed, Jalbert Tells Hearing

PORTLAND - A Lewiston legislator told a U.S. Senate subcommittee on air and water pollution here today that "progress in pollution abatement...will doubtless be uneven and costly, however, there is hope that through continued hard work and good faith on the part of both industry and the community," with the assistance of federal resources, there will be success.

The subcommittee, headed by Sen. Edmund S. Muskie of Maine, heard State Rep. Louis Jalbert say that "A cleaner environment is certain to be the end result, which can be surveyed with pride and enjoyment while withstanding further urbanization and a flourishing industrial economy."

Jalbert, one of many speakers at the Luther Bonney Auditorium (University of Maine at Portland) session, also said:

Pollution, being one predictable result of the accelerating tendency of the human race to cluster in large numbers, knows no single cause nor remedy. As population grows and consumption increases even more rapidly, the causes of pollution intensify, causing serious lags in control procedures. The trend being toward increased urvanization and industrialization suggests intelligent direction and cooperation with all of man's engineering skills supplemented by the limited curative powers of nature will be required before satisfactory solutions are achieved.

Jalbert also said: "Prior to going into this series of hearings on thermal pollution of the dissipation of excessive heat and the attendant hasards, I would like to take this opportunity to publicly commend senator Edmund S. Muskie and his committee for their outstanding leadership and devoted study in the vital field of environmental pollution."

PORTLAND (AP) - Several witnesses told the subcommittee there are unknown dangers from thermal pollution, and that more information on possible water pollution by nuclear power plants should be gathered.

Wiscasset

But the chief engineer of the Maine Water and Air Environmental Improvement Commission (WAEIC) testified his agency is taking a favorable tack towards an application for the discharge of coolant waters by a proposed nuclear power facility at Wiscasset.

Ronald Green, commissioner of the Maine Department of Sea and Shore Fisheries, said he would like to see a two-year marine study before giving his approval.

Under questioning by Chairman Muskie, Green said no one has ascertained the pollution effects the Wiscasset project might cause.

An Obstacle

Gov. Kenneth M. Curtis of Maine said the lack of knowledge on nuclear power operations causes an obstacle in assessing the potential benefits of such projects.

Curtis urged that caution be used in planning the proposed Wiscasset facility, and that an installation of a water-cooling plant be considered.

The Maine Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. is planning a nuclear power installation at Wiscasset.

Raeburn W. MacDonald WAEIC chief engineer, testified that "the scientific reports presented by Maine Yankee officials and consultants were based upon completely reasonable assumptions and ...the conclusions were also reasonable and correct."

MacDonald said the discharge license would impose conditions that would "insure that remedial measures" would be taken if the discharge of coolant waters caused any unsatisfactory conditions in the Sheepscot River near Wiscasset.

MacDonald also told Muskie the WAEIC has sufficient enforcement powers to assure that corrective measures would be taken if pollution became a problem.

At the opening of the hearing, Muskie issued a statement saying federal agencies sometimes "condone pollution rather than encourage water quality enhancement."

March 7, 1968 Lewiston Daily Sun

Brown Co. Converts to Oil to
Lessen Pollution Problem

BERLIN, N.H. -- It was announced Wednesday by L.D. Ketchum, resident manager, Berlin-Gorham Operation, Brown Company, that the heating and power supplies of the operation will be changed from coal to oil. Engineering studies are now being completed and the equipment suppliers will soon be chosen.

In making the announcement, Ketchum alluded to the plans that were laid out for pollution abatement and control two and one half years ago at the time of the management change. A major concern of the new management was the reduction of the pollution load as they considered designs and plans for the Berlin-Gorham expansion. Ketchum pointed out that this concern is reflected in the many studies, equipment changes and modifications, and plans that have been executed since the assumption of control by the

new management. The Company has been aware of the many inherent pollution problems of the pulp and paper industry and has laid plans and is taking corrective action. This is a continuing program.

The Company has been concerned about the air pollution problems and the recent increase in the emmision of fly ash into the atmosphere. The change in fuel supply for the Berlin-Gorham Operation has been contemplated for some years and several weeks ago the study of the feasibility of converting to oil was completed and submitted to the Board of Directors. The Board has approved the change-over which will be completed at a cost of approximately $375,000.

In addition to the reduction in fly ash emmission, it is anticipated that there will be a savings in handling costs, fuel costs, and wear and tear on equipment. The new equipment will be more efficient and will allow faster control and quicker responses with better operation of the boilers. The furnaces now in operation will be modified to burn the atomized oil.

The change to oil equipment will require the installation of a main storage tank which will hold a three to four day supply of oil and will be located in the upper Burgess area. Fuel oil pumps will feed a six hour supply of oil into a "day tank" which will be located closer to the main facilities at Burgess. A system to heat the oil will be installed to keep it at a specified temperature to prevent the precipitation of paraffin from the oil rendering it unusable.

Air Pollution Control

In discussing the general problem of pollution, Ketchum stressed that as early as 1951-52 the Company installed several fly ash collectors on boilers six and seven. In October, 1955, a similar unit was installed on No. nine boiler. In an effort to control fly ash down river, the Company virtually eliminated fly ash at the Cascade Mill when the boilers were converted to oil during the period from 1961-63.

Stream Improvement

In discussing the water pollution problem, Ketchum noted that wastes being discharged to the Androscoggin River are of two quite different types. One of these is untreated sewage from municipalities containing organisms which may cause disease. The other type is industrial waste from the pulp and paper mills which does not contain disease carrying organisms. The loss of the particles into the air and raw materials into the river constitutes a considerable expense. The Company is anxious to reduce these losses which will make a more profitable operation as well as a better community in which to live.

During the past 25 years, Brown Company has spent $6,000,000 on waste reduction. The Company converted its process from sulphite pulping, a major source of pollution to a kraft and neutral

sulphite semi-chemical pulping process in which the spent pulping liquor is concentrated and recovered.

After the contract has been awarded for the new oil equipment, its installation will require 6 to 10 months. At present there are several suppliers under consideration but no final decision has been made. An important factor in the final choice will be the installation time which can be guaranteed by the suppliers.

March 7, 1968 Lewiston Evening Journal

Biologists Talk Pollution By Hot Water

At a meeting of the executive committee of the State Biologists Association held in Lewiston yesterday, it was voted to press for control of heated water, or thermal pollution, from a planned Maine Yankee Atomic nuclear power plant at Wiscasset.

The committee urged the Maine Water Improvement Commission to request water containment by means of dikes "in the public interest."

The dikes should be built at the same time as the atomic plant and not later if, as Maine Yankee President William H. Dunham proposes, plant operation produces unfavorable consequences, the committee said.

Without the dikes heated water would overespread five miles of Back River and Montsweag Bay, it added.

The Proposed dikes would keep the water within a small area - Baipey's Cove - where it could be released under control.

Whether or not the dikes are built the "thermal pollution" is expected to end the cove as a worm and clam digging area, Dr. Robert M Chute of Bates College, SBA president said.

Except that "thermal pollution" changes the marine environment its effects, under control, for good ar bad are not known, he explained.

The committee said it wanted dikes built "not only to protect the waters of the bay" but also to provide a chance for widespread research on "thermal pollution."

"Using the energy which would otherwise be a waste discharge, large-scale experiments in marine productivity, esturine ecology and aquaculture could be conducted," it said.

"Maine Yankee could, if it agreed to the plan, make a major contribution to marine research and perform a major public service," the group added.

March 9, 1968 Lewiston Daily Sun

JOHNSON BIDS VAST EFFORT ON POLLUTION

President Calling On All Americans To Save Resources

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Johnson called on all Americans Friday to help conserve and renew the nation's natural resources.

In a special message to Congress, Johnson proposed a stepped-up $1.2-billion campaign against air and water pollution and land despoilment - more than double current spending.

Declaring that conservation is not only for man's survival," the President said the job ahead is not just for some, "but for all Americans."

"All will share in its blessings - and all will suffer if the work is neglected," he said. "That work begins with the family."

Johnson asked Congress for $128 million for the coming year's fight against air pollution.

"None Is More Urgent"

"Of all the problems of conservation, none is more urgent than the polluted air which endangers the American people," he said. He said 130 million tons of soot, carbon and grime settle over the country each year from factory smokestacks and the exhausts of motors and machines.

The President asked for legislation authorizing a study of the safety of public drinking water supplies.

The threat of cholera and typhoid was countered long ago, he said, and Americans now drink tap water without a thought as to its safety.

"And yet - that water is not always as safe as it should be," he said.

Create New Problems

He said chemical and industrial wastes are creating new problems, and "we do not have enough information on the long-term health effects of substances in drinking water."

He proposed the safe drinking water act of 1968 to strengthen the authority of the secretary of welfare to enforce safety standards.

The President asked for an extension of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, under which an answer is being sought to the problem of the annual pileup of "millions of tons of garbage and rubbish,

old automobile hulks, abandoned refrigerators, slaughterhouse refuse."

"Four Times Over"

"This waste - enough to fill the Panama Canal four times over - mars the landscapes in cities, suburbia and countryside alike," Johnson said. "It breeds disease-carrying insects and rodents, and much of it finds its way into the air and water."

Johnson also proposed measures to cope with what he called an ever-mounting volume of noise.

"What was once critically described as 'the busy hum of traffic' has now turned into an unbearable din for many city dwellers," he said.

Johnson Proposals

In what Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall termed "the most comprehensive, most significant conservative message ever sent up to Congress," Johnson proposed:

--More government aid to state and local campaigns against water pollution.
--Authority to control strip mining, which leaves the land scarred and barren.
--A study, in cooperation with other nations, of the mysteries and resources of the oceans' depths.
--New authority to require ship owners and others who spill oil along the shores to pay for cleaning up the mess.
--More national parks and wilderness areas.

Sen. Henry M. Jackson, D-Wash., chairman of the Senate Interior Committee, endorsed Johnson's proposals as "very timely and important."

He said his committee hopes to enact this session bills on national parks, wilderness areas and wild rivers.

March 22, 1968 Lewiston Evening Journal

SUDS ON THE ANDROSCOGGIN

Caption under picture - Looking across the Androscoggin River, from the North River Road in Auburn toward Boxer Island, the white stuff just beyond the bush and between the dirty ridges isn't ice but a foamy scum that has collected on the surface of the water. The river, swollen by heavy spring rains, apparently churns up the chemicals in the water as it spills over the dam at Gulf Island. The froth covers about an acre of water and, in some places is reported as much as four feet thick. If that's all soap...how come it smells so bad lately?

March 23, 1968 — Lewiston Evening Journal
Magazine Section

Oxford Paper Co.

Captien under picture - An aerial view of the well known Oxford Paper Co., economic heart of the prosperous Rumford community. Last year Oxford became part of the big Ethyl Corporation. What would the Keyes family think if they ever could see their home town today?

April 6, 1968 — Lewiston Daily Sun

Androscoggin River Stream
Runoff Is 20% of Normal

Stream runoff at the Little Androscoggin River near South Paris was 204 per cent of normal in March and the runoff picture this month should be about normal in the north and slightly below normal in the south if precititation and temperatures are normal, according to the latest U.S. Geological Survey report.

Precipitation for the month averaged 94 per cent of normal. Gulf Island Dam at Lewiston recorded 3.82 inches, Errell, N.H., had 3 inches, Rumford, 3.67 inches and Flagstaff Dam, 2.61 inches.

Ground water levels rose as the result of recharge from snowmelt and rainfall. A new March high was reached at the observation well at Houlton. The water level in the well at Middle Dam in the Rangeley Lakes which has been below average for several months was back nearly to normal. The survey of ground-water levels at month's end, along with the net change during the month in this area, had the following results: Augusta, 4.54 feet, up 2.84 feet; East Winthrop, 37.92 feet, no change; Middle Dam, Rangeley Lakes, 4.5 feet, up 4.3 feet; Auburn 4.33 feet up 0.52 feet; Brunswick, 33.53 feet, up 0.60 feet.

The Androscoggin River Basin water storage was only 37 per cent of full volume. Nearly normal snow cover on March 1 and about normal precipitation during the month indicate most systems should fill this spring if precipitation during April and May is normal.

The report noted that water content of the snow in central and northern sections decreased moderately during the past half of the month with 4 to 6 inches of water generally remaining on the ground. Streams near the coast have generally cleared of all ice.

March snow course data in the Androscoggin River Basin was: Auburn, 20.9 inches, water content, 5.92 inches; South Paris, 21.5 inches, water content, 6.08 inches; Topsham, 10.3 inches, water content, 3.45 inches; Turner Center 19.8 inches, water content, 7.66 inches; Middle Dam, Rangeley Lakes, 35 inches, water content, 6.88 inches.

Runoff for April should be about normal in the north and slightly below normal in the south if precipitation and temperatures are normal, according to the report.

April 17, 1968 Lewiston Evening Journal

Oxford Paper Technicians To Have
New Mobile Unit For Pollution Testing

Technicians in pollution abatement work at the Oxford Paper Company at Rumford will put a new mobile testing unit into operation the latter part of this month.

The testing unit, a panel truck, will contain equipment used for collecting and testing samples of Androscoggin River water at various locations from Rumford to Lewiston.

Stuart R. Cooper, director of Pollution Abatement for Oxford said today the new unit will be operated by Wilbur Cote, a senior technician in the Technical Service Department. The unit can also be used to test air pollution.

Androscoggin water samples are taken and analyzed from May through September of each year.

These results, along with similar data from Brown Company in Berlin, N.H., and International Paper Company in Jay-Livermore, are sent to the Maine Attorney General's office.

The entire cost of the testing program, which has been going on for 25 years, is shared by the three paper companies.

Caption under picture--CHECK ANDROSCOGGIN POLLUTION ABATEMENT-- Oxford Paper Company technical service engineer Stephen DeWick, left and senior technician Wilbur Cote check water sampling equipment prior to putting the company's new pollution abatement testing unit on the road. The panel truck will be used for water sampling operations along the Androscoggin between Rumford and Lewiston.

April 19, 1968 Lewiston Daily Sun

Testing the Androscoggin

The new mobile unit which the Oxford Paper Co. of Rumford has put into service to test the waters of the Androscoggin River is a reminder of the job of pollution abatement and control which the pulp and paper companies along the river have done for a quarter of a century. Even though a great deal of progress has been made the testing goes on.

The Mobile Testing Unit will be collecting water samples through the warm months of the summer, and reporting the results

to the office of the Attorney General in Augusta. In that way the state is kept informed of the water conditions along the river.

At the time that the Androscoggin River pollution reached a critical point, in the forties, the Brown Co. of Berlin, International Paper at Livermore Falls, and Oxford Paper at Rumford all were dumping sulphite liquor waste into the water. Court action led to the first limitations on the amount of such waste which could be discharged through the summer months, and to chemical treatment of the river, to control the formation of noxious fumes.

Through the years the three concerns have continued to finance the water treatment program even as they spent millions of dollars to change their handling of waste and adopt new manufacturing processes. Today, there is no sulphite liquor waste going into the Androscoggin River because the mills have converted to a sulphate process. Pollution from the paper mills now forms a minor factor. The major pollutant today is the untreated sewage which is discharged into the river by the communities all along its course.

Industry has done its part in the cleanup. The municipalities now must do theirs, and that job is underway.

April 20, 1968

Lewiston Evening Journal
Magazine Section

Maine Now Fully Involved In Water Pollution Problem

By CLINT WHITNEY

Many American industries are dependent upon a continuous flow of large quantities of clean water for the manufacture of their products. Basic research in the problem of water pollution reveals that our nation's everyday requirement ranges from 300 to 500 billion gallons of water. Because of this, there is an acute need of water quality control. It is one of the greatest problems facing us today, water pollution.

Maine has five large rivers, more than 5,000 streams, and 2,500 lakes and ponds. Maine has a big stake in water pollution. Everyone contributes to the pollution problem, industry, farmers, government, shipping, utilities, even the American family. Various types of pollution have been around for a long time. When the first settlers arrived they built their homes and settlements at the water's edge "for convenience." The wastes were discarded easily into the water, disposed of without a second thought. Water pollution has been growing for years.

Filthy Sewage

One of the great problems of water pollution that is causing alarm is the sewage flowing into the sea. It won't just wash away

and stay. With a change of tide, back it comes, with a filthy, deadly rush and that is especially true during extra high tides following a severe storm. Right now there is a program well under way to control harbor and sewage pollution, to make our waterfronts safe and more attractive. Maine, a vacation playground has a big stake in this matter.

There is so much sedimentation from pollution along sections of the shore that this sedimentation is gradually filling in spaces dredged recently in an effort to improve the waterfront anchorage. Quickest and most efficient way to overcome this waterfront problem is by retardation and eventual elimination of sewer solids and other floating materials that eventually find their way into the ocean.

There is no doubt but what detergents from homes and laundries as well as the oil and grease from filling stations finds their way into storm sewers, adding greatly to the menace of pollution. In addition there is the oil slick, escaping from harbor ships contributing to the pollution problem.

Educational Program

The trash and other floating litter that is emptied out of boats, eventually finds its way to the shore. To correct this phase of water pollution, an educational program should be instituted dealing with the subject similar to the situation along our highways where posted signs warn: "Don't Be A Litterbug."

Unless this situation is voluntarily acted upon, legislation may be needed to control the matter, with ample funds to enforce the laws. Solving this problem needs the concerted effort of all concerned, and effort that will prove that there is respect for the other fellow's rights.

Outlook For Improvement Better

The outlook for improved control of marine pollution is far better than it was a few years ago. Total success depends largely upon the attitude of the users of our waterways. To succeed in the work of cleaning up this water pollution situation in some localities will require well-planned dredging operations especially in areas where rivers empty their filth into the sea.

Maine Has Much at Stake

The entire water pollution program is under the able direction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Their work is thorough and is in no way influenced by private interests. The Corps is very concerned with effluent from industrial plants including various types of sewer disposal which may in time, if not controlled, cause shoaling, possibly reducing river channel depths, endangering shipping.

Oil spillage problems in water pollution control are many. This year, so far, 27 spillage cases have been initiated in the Federal District Court. Portland harbor is a major terminal for coastwise and foreign vessels and tankers. Further dredging may run into trouble because of the harbor's pollution problem.

The U.S., Army Corps of Engineers, during the past months, has cooperated with the Maine Department of Sea and Shore fisheries on studies of the silting effects of river channel dredging. It is a problem that must be met without delay, if the situation is to improve to any great extent.

The New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission develops water classification standards and the commission has the authority to issue orders for pollution abatement. Such powers usually are retained by the individual states and used only when needed to enforce classification requirements.

The Portland Harbor Pollution Abatement committee had a demonstration of a portable plastic oil-containment boom located at the end of one of its piers. It was found that by pouring an emulsifier upon its contents, it was cleaned up, a very rewarding demonstration to all parties interested in the matter.

Will Lay Big Dividends

A water-resources program has been formulated by the Federal government. The Secretary of Interior is very active in the matter and a projected survey of the problem seems to indicate the program will be in full swing by 1972. Time, money and brains are the essential ingredients to its success investments that will pay big dividends in years to come.

If all goes well, an additional three-year period, will find all in good order, to completely safeguard our entire population with an ample supply to serve our entire needs. This measure will also guarantee a stable supply of water for our crops that have in some instances been so plagued with either droughts or floods - the two extremes.

An additional source of water supply will be available by the installation of saline water plants that convert sea water into clear drinking water. Several of these installations are working to perfection and will provide an unfailing source of clean water especially if other man-made resources fail. One of these new facilities worked so well when connected to the piping system of a far-western town that few people noticed a change in the taste, although two water classifications, local and the saline, controlled supply for the town.

Our ever-increasing population levels, demand forsight in considering every angle of the water conservation program, especially until such times as saline water purifiers can be fabricated and installed in the most vital areas of need. With the complete

cooperation of the Federal Government and with well-laid engineering plans completed, pure water will be available to meet most any emergency to safeguard the health of our entire population.

Pollution Along Potomac

The Potomac river, rising in the Appalacian mountains empties into Chesapeake Bay, carrying with it an accumulation of waste matter that at times reaches enormous proportions. Occasionally the situation is so acute, the river appears to be discolored, even dirty looking.

At one time, water from this river actually was used for drinking purposes, but even then with the sewage and a concentration of other impurities the Potomac had to be chemically treated. Despite these precautions the filthy conditions of the river became progressively worse.

A great deal of pollution was caused by industrial wastes flowing from outside areas into the river. Surface drainage carried much of this disease-ladened water into the Potomac. The fight to clean up the river is underway and in time, little or no chlorination will be required to insure an ample supply of pure drinking water.

Carries Deadly Germs

The scum, debris and unsightly litter floating on many of our waterways, are the elements that develop and hold disease germs. In some cases the condition is so acute, throughout the world, many have perished from drinking polluted water. Among the diseases canbe found the germs of cholera and hepatitis, the latter virus seeming to survive most attempts to subdue it, regardless of chlorination methods involved.

Like man, wildlife comes in for its share of water pollution slaughter. Birds by tha thousands have perished from polluted water especially those engulfed in water, surfaced with oil slick, giving them a heavy coating. This prevents them from rising to take off in an effort to reach other feeding areas.

Such birds found alive were transferred to a feeding station, cleaned and given shots to neutralize the poisons they had consumed. After being released, it is hoped they reached new feeding areas safely.

In these polluted areas, great quantities of dead fish have been washed upon the beach. Their rotting bodies caused a terrible stench. To remove them caused a considerable expenditure of time and money plus transportation to areas of permanent disposal.

While there are many sincere efforts being made to effectively correct the pollution situation, there still is much to be done. Through the knowledge of our best engineers and use of their superb scientific equipment for research, satisfaction will be realized.

To achieve their goal, work will go steadily on. There IS an answer to the problem because it is not a case of "can we succeed" but one that demands a definite "We Must".

Caption under pictures accompanying this story.
MODERN WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PLANT - This control plant has four circular units that allow all sludge to settle to the bottom where it then is pumped into digestive tanks for ultimate disposal, a process to produce clean water.

TWO-STAGE SYSTEM - Water is cycled through a two-stage system of neutralizers, filters, and acetates that settles out of the solid before released and discarded into a stream or river. A constant check periodically keeps the system operating in perfect condition.

ONE MILLION GALLONS DAILY - Saline water plant at Roswell, New Mexico, makes one million gallons of fresh water a day from brackish water. It is accomplished by a forced circulation, vapor-compression distillation process.

PRIMARY TREATMENT SYSTEM - Used for clarifying waste water such as discharged from a manufacturing plant. This installation is 180 feet in diameter with a capacity of 2½ million gallons of water.

April 25, 1968 Lewiston Evening Journal

'Minor Overflows' Of Rivers Forecast

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)-The weather bureau forecast today what it called "minor overflows" on the Androscoggin and Kennebec rivers.

The report from the bureau's River Forecast Center in Hartford, Conn., also said there would be "a substantial rise" in the level of the Saco River.

The situation developed from a slow-moving storm, crossing Maine from west to east, which had dumped almost 3½ inches of rain in the Rumford area. It was expected to give northern and eastern Maine an average fall of around an inch before it's over.

At Rumford

At Rumford, where the flood stage is 35,000 cubic feet a second, the river was expected to crest at around 40,000 feet later today.

Already there was flooding of tributaries. The Ellis River's overflow flooded some rural roads in Andover. A brook at Mexico washed out around the foundations of three homes there. William Curtis and his family evacuated their home.

The Androscoggin's flood stage at Gulf Island Dam, in Lewiston also is 35,000 c.f.s., and the river was expected to crest there at 40,000 Friday morning.

On the Kennebec at Skowhegan a crest of 35,000 c.f.s.-just about flood stage- is also expected Friday morning. Downstream at Augusta, a Friday crest of 11-12 feet will be just a foot short of flood stage.

The Saco's crest isn't expected at West Buxton until Sunday. The river center's forecast said it would be about 18,000 c.f.s- 9,000 below flood stage.

In Portland where 1.61 inches were measured, the storm was over. But the rain was moving eastward and the bureau predicted an inch or more in eastern and northern Maine by nightfall.

A forecaster said small streams in the Androscoggin Valley undoubtedly would go over their banks. Sustained winds of 25 to 30 miles an hour gusted to 44 m.p.h. as the storm passed over Portland during the night.

The Weather Bureau said the disturbance was part of a continental storm system that spawned tornadoes in the North Central states Wednesday.

Thursday April 25, 1968 Lewiston Evening Journal

Caption under picture -TURNER BRIDGE WASHED OUT - The above photo shows the Fish Street bridge, Turner, which was washed away early Thursday morning, isolating 12 families in the Keene's Mills area. On the left can be seen the eroded abutment which had supported the iron and plank structure.

TURNER - The Fish Street Bridge in Turner Center was swept into the Nezinscot River early Thursday morning when heavy rain and winds washed away the supporting abutment on the Keenes Mill side of the river. Twelve families were isolated, this being the only land approach to the area.

Town road crews and farmers in the area worked rapidly to make a temporary road leading from Fish Street to Parish Road, across fields and small wood lots owned by Sherman Varney and Bill Morris.

The bridge apparently went out about 6 a.m. Reports were heard that Gus Hood of Keenes Mills had been over the span with his milk truck around 3 a.m.

Plans for rebuilding or abandoning the bridge were not immediately known. The Nezinscot Watershed work plan, which is primarily flood control, is now in Washington awaiting approval by Congress, according to LeRoy Bingham of the State Department of Soil Conservation Service.

April 26, 1968 Lewiston Daily Sun

SWOLLEN ANDROSCOGGIN TO CREST
ABOVE FLOOD STAGE FRIDAY MORNING

By RICHARD KISONAK

Swollen by torrential rain, the Androscoggin River was surging relentlessly toward flood stage here Thursday night and already was inundating lowlands.

The river is expected to crest at Gulf Island Dam in Lewiston late Friday morning at about 40,000 cubic feet per second, some 5,000 cfs above minimum flood stage.

With upriver communities already hit by floodings, police in Lewiston-Auburn were keeping an anxious eye on the roaring river during the night. By early evening the river slopped across the North River Road in Auburn.

Rainfall along the valley from the windswept rainstorm which moved on Thursday ranged from two to more than four inches. Lewiston-Auburn got a nearly three-inch bath.

At Pineland Lumber Co., 10 Avon St., Lewiston, material in storage sheds near the riverbank were hastily moved Thursday night to higher ground. As workers toiled the river already was already spilling over banks near the lumber company.

Gulf Island Dam river flow at 9 p.m. Thursday was recorded at 36,880 cubic feet per second, highest it's been this year, and already in minor flood stage. Rumford reported 34,140 cfs at the same hour and Rumford Falls Power Co. said it might hit flood stage which is listed at 40,000 cfs.

Paul W. Bean, agent for the Union Power Co. in Lewiston, said Thursday the river here and in Rumford was still rising. It was expected to crest at Rumford within hours. When it crests here Friday morning, there's a chance of "a little lowland flooding," Bean reported.

Some other officials, plus many homeowners along the banks of the growling river, were worried that more serious flooding would take place. Police were told to expect a rise in the river of another three feet.

There had been no serious flooding here by Thursday night. However, some lowlands were under water and a few area roads were reported impassable. Wet cellars in homes were a dime a dozen.

Rain Totals

Bean reported the following rain totals for communities along the Androscoggin: Berlin,N.H., 2.05 inches; Gorham 2.87 inches

and 3.2 inches (two reporting stations: Rumford, 3.36 inches; Pinkham Notch, 4.01 inches; Sunday River, 3.75 inches; Milton, 3.6 inches; and Bethel, 2.86 inches.

The Lewiston-Auburn rainfall as measured by the UWP Co. gatehouse, was 2.71 inches.

Rainfall totals in the upcounty Rangeley Lakes area reporting stations wasn't as high. They were: Aziscohos Dam, 1.11 inches; Upper Dam, 1.75 inches; Middle Dam, 1.71 inches; Errol, N.H. 1.16 inches.

Auburn police closed the North River Road early Thursday night behind Auburn Motor Sales Inc. when the river spilled over its banks in the area.

Tributary streams throughout western Maine rose above their banks. In addition, the Saco River and the Kennebec River were rising menacingly.

Water, Water

The village square at Danville was flooded Thursday near the post office, delaying mail service and Lake Shore Drive along Lake Auburn was under water near the bog.

In Lewiston sections of Winn Street, Goddard Road and Hogan Road were flooded. The power-packed storm felled limbs like they were match sticks throughout the two cities. A tree on Sabattus Street was uprooted. Some homes lost shingles.

Twin City residents took the punch well and when the weather broke Thursday afternoon, with bright warm sunshine again bathing the region, quickly picked up the pieces. But the steadily rising Androscoggin and other rivers were a grim reminder there may be trouble in store for riverbank residents.

The State Highway Commission's divisional office at Rumford reported two roads - Route 120 at Hale and Route 219 in West Sumner - closed to traffic. Several other minor roads and busy Route 26 at Bethel were under water but passable.

Bridge Out

The U.S. Weather Bureau's river forecast center at Hartford Conn., reported the Kennebec River would reach 35,000 cubic feet per second - just above flood stage - at Skowhegan Friday. Otis Bacon, chief engineer at the Kennebec Water Power Co., reported the river had reached 39,000 cfs at 6 p.m. Thursday.

The center reported the Saco River crest at West Buxton would come about Sunday and be about 18,000 cfs or 9,000 below flooding level.

At Turner Center, the Nezinscot River washed out the Fish

Street Bridge. Highway crews worked on a temporary road to give access to a dozen homes isolated by loss of the bridge.

A flooded brook at Mexico washed out soil around the foundation of three homes. One family left its home temporarily.

Stream floods washed out the Marston Bridge at Andover, and inundated secondary roads in South Rumford, Fryeburg, Waterford and North Rumford.

Power Lost

The storm brought an average two inches of rain in southern sections of Maine and about one and a half in central Maine. While this cut sharply into forest fire hazards, the Forest Service said it feared that drying winds would quickly bring back the danger.

April 26, 1968 Lewiston Daily Sun

10 Turner Families Isolated After
Bridge Swept Away

By Betty Libby

TURNER - Fish Street Bridge was swept into the Nezinscot River early Thursday morning, leaving several families temporarily isolated. Heavy rains and high winds washed away the abutment on the Keene's Mills side of the river, letting the iron structure collapse some 75 feet downstream. Cables wrapped around large trees held secure, lashing the remains to the Cobb Road bank of the river. Only eroded approaches remain where the bridge has spanned the swelling waters since 1896.

Town road crews and area residents worked rapidly to establish a temporary road leading from the Russell Hinkley place on Parish Road to the Arthur Pearl residence on Fish Street. The road crosses fields and small wooded areas owned by Sherman Varney, Bill Morris and Pearl. It is not expected to be passable for automobiles before the weekend.

Selectman Roy Nickerson said that officials from the State Highway Department will meet with town officials, hopefully Friday, concerning cost estimates for the rebuilding of the bridge or construction of a new road. The bridge was town-owned and any action will have to come before a special town meeting.

The washout was discovered at approximately 6 a.m. by Leo Pearl who was taking his wife to work. Arthur Pearl Jr. was said to have heard the sonorous tremor sometime around 5, presumably the time the bridge gave way. Fortunately no vehicles were crossing at the time and no personal injuries resulted. Some reports said that a Keene's Mills resident, Gus Hood, had passed over the bridge with his milk truck shortly after 3 a.m. The school bus would have been traveling over the span at 8.

Fish Street Bridge has been the only accessible approach to the area since the flood of 1936. At that time the Keene's Mills bridge went out, cutting off the River Road and Cobb Road. The Nezinscot empties into the Androscoggin just beyond that point. Later that year River Road property was purchased by the Central Maine Power Company and the water was raised again. (The first man-flooding of the valley was done in 1928.) Farmers along the river abandoned their homes and moved farther into the valley or elsewhere. There are grazing and crop lands still used along the river banks and these are reached by way of Fish Street.

There are presently 10 families living in the area. They are Mrs. Maude Thornton, Henry Morris, Floyd Fish, Gus Hood, Robert Huntington, Marion Ham, David Youland, Leo Pearl, Arthur Pearl Jr. and Professor Mitchell.

It was first thought that the temporary road could be made passable before the day ended. However the Morris fields were discovered to be too soft yet and would require several loads of gravel before anything but four wheel drive vehicles could get through. It is approximately one mile between the roads being joined. A permanent road here appears to be much less expensive than the construction of a new bridge, though causing some inconvenience to farmers working land both sides of the river.

Town-owned bridges are a source of devilment to taxpayers and the road commissioner. There has been considerable debate in recent years as to which would be more feasible in the case of the Fish Street bridge; to repair or replace, or to build a road to Parish Road. Time and the elements have now forced a decision.

Turner Village Postmaster Richard Dyer announced that mail for the stranded residents will be left at the Turner Center rural station until other arrangements can be made. Dyer said he had asked for and had been denied emergency funds for these deliveries.

Though this bridge collapse was caused by surface washing rather than flood damage, residents along the Nezinscot are recalling the several times they have been plagued by the raging swell of that river. The heavy rains of Wednesday night and early Thursday have raised the water to minor flooding level in some areas but no major damage is reported at this writing. Meadow Brook, Beals Brook and sections of the Nezinscot backwaters are near road level in some places but due to the absence of melting snow, will no doubt subside shortly.

LeRoy Bingham of the State Department of Soil Conservation Service said that the Nezinscot River Watershed Plan is now in Washington awaiting action by Congress. The plan provides for watershed protection, flood prevention and recreation areas in Turner, Buckfield and Sumner. Four dams would be built above the Turner Village bridge as far as Sumner and major flooding would occur in the Jersey Bog area and the west branch of the Nezinscot running through West Sumner. The plan is sponsored by the Oxford County Soil and Water Conservation District, Androscoggin Valley SWCD, Turner, Buckfield and Sumner planning organizations.

April 26, 1968 Lewiston Daily Sun

Caption under picture - NORTH RIVER ROAD FLOODED - Lights along North River Road near Center Street are reflected in the water sloshed over the road by the rising Androscoggin River. Police closed the road to traffic early Thursday night. This picture was taken from the vicinity of the Auburn Motor Sales Inc. rear yard looking toward Center Street and The Fair.

April 26, 1968 Lewiston Evening Journal

Another Step Taken Toward Construction of Sewage Treatment Plant for L-A

Another step towards the inevitable future construction of a sewage treatment plant to handle the sewage of Lewiston and Auburn is about to be taken.

The Lewiston engineering firm of Aliberti, LaRochelle and Hodson has signed a contract with the city of Lewiston to provide engineering services in the preparation of easements for the right-of-way of the main interceptor sewer line along the river.

This is the first step in the program towards eventual construction of a main sewer line which will pick up the wastes of all the sewer lines which presently discharge in the river.

The collector line will take all the sewage to the treatment plant which, it is proposed, would be located at the south end of Lincoln Street, near the fire department training area, next to the river.

Lewiston Public Works Director William R. Adams said today that the job of the engineering firm will be to establish ownership of property across which the lines must travel to reach the proposed treatment plant.

1976

He said $25,000 has been budgeted for this purpose. The program, he said, is one of many steps which have been and will have to be taken before the treatment plant becomes a reality. The target date for the plant is 1976, the time prescribed in river reclassification legislation.

The whole process started in 1963 at which time the cities of Lewiston-Auburn obtained the Camp, Dresser and McKee sewer report.

After that report was received by the cities an interest-free loan was obtained from the Federal government which allowed the cities to go ahead with preliminary plans for the interceptor lines.

Authority

A Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority made up of representatives of the two cities will have control of the actual treatment plant once it's built.

Adams said negotiations are currently underway with Camp, Dresser and McKee relative to the plans and specifications for the plant. Preparations of easements will start immediately and the work will proceed through the remainder of the year, it was announced.

Included in this contract is work to be done by the engineering firm which will provide the necessary data for easements on the Jepson Brook drainage project.

This project will eventually provide a concrete channel lining to the brook to allow for a faster runoff during heavy storms and prevent overloading to the sewers in the area.

It will also provide larger culverts at all street crossings to eliminate the present "daming" situation.

April 26, 1968 Lewiston Evening Journal

Maine's River Flows Subsiding

PORTLAND (AP) - Maine's river flows subsided today after widespread minor flooding mostly on tributaries, in western and central areas of the state.

A few bridges were washed out; some secondary roads were closed temporarily and there were reports of cellar-floodings and other minor property damage.

The Androscoggin crested at Lewiston before dawn at 41,400 cubic feet a second - 6,400 above normal flood stage.

Paul W. Bean, river engineer for the Union Water Power Co., said there was some minor flooding but it would have been serious had it happened a month ago when there still was ice in the river.

The floods resulted from a spring storm Wednesday night and Thursday that dumped an average of one and a half to two inches of rain. Rumford, on the upper Androscoggin, had three and a half.

The crest passed Rumford Thursday night. It was measured there at 34,500 c.f.s. - about 5,500 below flood stage. In Augusta the Kennebec flooded a riverside parking lot in the heart of the city.

One of the lesser streams, the Sandy River, spilled into

streets at Farmington Thursday. John McSorley, 81, of that town was rescued by two men in a canoe when his car was trepped in three feet of water.

Even in southern Aroostook County there was some flooding from small streams.

April 26, 1968 Lewiston Evening Journal

Caption under picture- THE ANDROSCOGGIN ROARS - The angry Androscoggin River reared up and roared, this morning, hitting its peak at 3 o'clock - a flood peak of 41,400 cubic feet per second. However, from that point on it was downhill, the rate of flow dropping off to about 40,000 cfs in late morning and the danger was reported over. The picture is of the falls above North Bridge, at their best.

A MONTH AGO, IT COULD HAVE BEEN 'AN AWFUL MESS'

Rain-Swollen Androscoggin Hits Peak, Subsides
By Cliff Hodgman

The "high water" of 1968 is rapidly subsiding. The tumultuous Androscoggin River reached its peak at 3 a.m. this morning and then began a gradual dropping off according to River Agent Paul W. Bean of the Union Water Power Co.

Residents of the Androscoggin Valley region can consider themselves lucky.

While there was minor flooding, no "major problems" were reported. Col. Bean said things could have been rough, however.

"If this rain fall had occurred a month ago," said Bean "we would have had one awful mess." He explained that the fine weather of the past month cut deeply into the snow cover up river.

"This heavy flow was rainfall only," he reported. Little melted snow...

The Androscoggin reached itscrest at 3 a.m. this morning at Gulf Island Dam, when a flow of 41,400 cubic feet per second was reported. This is 6,400 cfs above minimum flood stage.

Col. Bean said that the elevation of the river between the hours of 1 and 7 a.m. this morning was at its highest point and after 7 o'clock it began to drop off.

At Gulf Island, the reading at mid-morning was 40,000 cfs. Bean said there is still snow at the higher elevations up river but this didn't result in any problems. The snow remaining won't cause any problems, he said.

A month ago, he said, there was still enough snow, plus a lot of river ice, to cause a great deal of trouble.

Mother Nature caused all the current trouble Wednesday night when the skies turned cloudy and rain poured out of the sky. Nearly three inches fell in the Lewiston-Auburn area before the storm ended. It rained still more farther up the Androscoggin.

Other precipitation readings: Berlin, N.H. 2.05; Gorham 2.87 at one station and 3.2 at another; Rumford, 3.36; Pinkham Notch 4.01; Sunday River, 3.75; Milton 3.6; and Bethel 2.86.

April 27,1968 Lewiston Daily Sun

BOILING ANDROSCOGGIN IS SUBSIDING
AFTER FLOODS REACH ONLY MINOR STAGE
By RICHARD KISONAK

Lewiston-Auburn escaped with only minor flooding as the angry Androscoggin River crested early Friday morning, spilling over lowlands and lapping dangerously close to some business properties along its banks.

The river, swollen by Tuesday's heavy rains, peaked with a flow at Gulf Island Dam in Lewiston of 41,280 cubic feet per second at 3 a.m. That's about 6,280 cfs above what is considered minimum flood stage.

Paul W. Bean, agent for the Union Water Power Co., said the flow held near the peak volume for several hours before dropping off. At 2 p.m. Friday the flow here was down to 39,000 cfs and was dropping slowly.

Bean said the flow could have brought serious trouble had it come a month earlier when there still was ice in the river.

Auburn and Lewiston police said they received no reports of the water reaching business places and plants located near the banks of the river. Employes at Pineland Lumber Co., 10 Avon St., moved some storage material the previous night as a safety precaution when the water was rising menacingly near the plant. There was no damage, company president Kenneth A. Small said Friday.

"I guess the water wouldn't have reached it anyway," he said. Roland Saucier, superintendent of the Auburn Highway Department reported water was still over the North River Road and said the road probably wouldn't be open until Saturday.

"No roads were closed in Lewiston," according to Lucien Couture, assistant director of the Public Works Department. "The river was higher than we've seen it in a long time, but there were no problems in Lewiston."

Rivers in other parts of Maine also began subsiding Friday and forecasts were more generally fair and cold weather Saturday. But the Weather Bureau said another storm is moving eastward and it could bring some more rain Saturday night or Sunday.

In Augusta, the Kennebec River spilled into a big parking lot in the center of the city but caused no damage. The crest at Skowhegan was well below flood level.

Most of the trouble Thursday came from tributaries of the big rivers. A few small bridges on secondary roads were washed out; several such roads were closed temporarily, and minor damage was reported.

May 10, 1968 Lewiston Daily Sun

GOVERNOR BIDS SUPPORT FOR
POLLUTION FUND PLAN

PORTLAND (AP) - Gov. Curtis urged Thursday support for a bill now before Congress which would substitute federally-guaranteed local loans for "lump sum" federal payments to anti-pollution projects.

Curtis said the bill, presently being considered by Sen. Edmund S. Muskie's Senate subcommittee on pollution, is designed to make more federal dollars available at a time when they are scarce "by spreading out over a period of time the federal dollar committment."

The governor spoke to the Maine Clean Water Conference here. Some 40 people heard Curtis.

Curtis said the state's conservation departments will take "a hard look" at possible thermal pollution damage that might result from the atomic power plant being built by the Maine Yankee Power Co. at Wiscasset. Concern has been expressed of the possibility of radiation and the effects of a water temperature rise on aquatic life.

"I'm not for one minute advocating the plant shouldn't be b built, but we should know more about its possible effects," Curtis said.

Curtis told the conference that last week the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission informend Maine Yankee that pre-operation surveys of the plant's discharge and possible effects will be evaluated by the Commission and transmitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the time of consideration of Maine Yankee's application for a provisional operating license.

The governor advocated registration to give more authority to the Water & Air Environmental Improvement Commission to set water purity standards in consultation with an advisory committee. The present method having the agency investigate and make recommendations to the legislature - is at least a two-year process and a faster method is needed, he said.

"Insofar as the state can legally require environmental protection, I assure you it will do so while I am governor," Curtis told the conference.

Curtis also said that industry had a "spotty record" in cleaning up the waters of the state, but said the "municipal record is pretty good and getting better every day."

June 1, 1968 Lewiston Daily Sun

Maine News Briefs

U.M. Professor Says Maine Can Halt Water Pollution

AUGUSTA (AP) - A University of Maine engineering professor says there is no present problem of water pollution which cannot be solved by modern technology.

But Prof. Otis J. Sproul says Maine's failure to cope with pollution effectively so far is due in large measure to the negative influence of industry.

The Natural Resources Council of Maine reprinted Sproul's letter to an NRC official in its latest monthly bulletin.

In a statement, the council said it agrees with Sproul. And it added that because of a slow-down in federal funds for pollution abatement, the burden is more than ever upon industry to provide its own waste treatment processes to clean up the waterways.

The Conservation Bulletin said construction projects on file seeking state and federal grants totaled $13.7 million as of May 24, an increase of $7 million in two months.

The $225 million allocated by President Johnson for abatement projects this year included only $1.9 million for Maine, however.

June 7, 1968 Lewiston Evening Journal

St. Croix River Project

We note with approval the plans on the part of Georgia-Pacific Corp. to construct a $4.6 million plant on the St. Croix River to cut pollution of the river which runs between the United States and Canadian border. The treatment plant will process 30 million gallons of pulp and paper mills waste water each day. This will be the equivalent of treating the amount of water required by a city of 300,000 people.

Georgia-Pacific's plan is designed to meet the requirements of international, federal and state pollution officials. If the engineering details are deemed acceptable, the company looks for completion of the project by the end of next year.

This is the kind of progress needed in Maine both with respect to the cleaning up of our major waterways, such as the St. Croix, and to achieving the same in connection with many smaller streams. Our state's water supply is abundant, but unfortunately over the decades of the 1900's there was permitted a build-upof pollution in many of the state's rivers and streams.

The time is at hand when both industrial and municipal pollution must be ended. We no longer can afford continuance of what ultimately would represent the destruction of one of the state's chief resources. We welcome Georgia-Pacific's planned action on the St. Croix. It is the kind of development that must take place in many other places in Maine.

June 5, 1968 Lewiston Daily Sun

St. Croix River Cleanup

An ambitious program to clean up the St. Croix River, on the U.S.-Canadian border, has been announced by the Georgia-Pacific Corp., which will finance the entire job. It will be one of the largest river cleanup projects in Maine history.

Georgia-Pacific has a large pulp and paper manufacturing complex in Woodland, where nearly 1,000 tons of pulp are produced daily. Several types of paper are produced, including newsprint, specialty papers and kraft, as well as semi-chemical pulp.

The system, to be constructed so as to go into operation by the end of 1969, will make use of advanced pollution control methods developed by the Georgia-Pacific Environmental Control Division and proven successful in pilot plants test at the firm's Cressett, Ark., forest products complex. The project will cost an estimated $4.6 million, with all of the funds to be provided by private capital.

The plans for the project already have been submitted to the Maine Water and Air Improvement Environmental Commission, whose approval must be secured before the work can get underway.

The extent of the St. Croix River project is indicated by the fact that the system to be installed will process 30 million gallons of pulp and paper mill waste water daily, equal to a water supply of a city of 300,000 people. The program also will include complete sanitary sewage treatment.

Georgia-Pacific deserves commendation for this forward-looking step. Our rivers are among our most valuable natural resources and their preservation with a minimum of pollution is vital to the future of Maine. There was a time when industry, balked at pollution control. Geogia-Pacific is demonstrating that today industry willingly is taking the lead in such work.

June 5, 1968 Lewiston Daily Sun

Governor Hails Georgia Pacific for River Plans

AUGUSTA (AP) - The Georgia Pacific Corporation's plan to spend $4.6 million to reduce its pollution of the St. Croix River is "an imaginative forward step" by an important member of the paper industry, Gov. Curtis said Tuesday.

The plan still requires approval by the Maine Water & Air Environmental Improvement Commission and the International Joint Commission, Curtis said.

If it does receive that approval, he said, it will be "a giant step forward in pollution control of one of our main rivers." Company officials will meet here June 19 with the state control agency.

Georgia-Pacific, operating the former St. Croix Paper Co. mills at Baileyville, announced plans to process 30 million gallons of pulp and paper mill waste liquid daily - the equivalent of the water supply of a city of 300,000.

The resident manager, E.G. Wilson, said the plan would entail a greatly improved method of removing objectionable color as well as suspended solids and biological oxygen demand.

Curtis commended the company for "attempting to meet its responsibilities to the general public insofar as pollution control is concerned. This could be the beginning of a series of moves by private industry to start water pollution control programs large enough to make our rivers safe again for marine life and human use."

He said it could also mean that the town of Baileyville could get its municipal pollution control program started sooner than expected, since it will not have to wait for a decision on how much of the cleanup effort the paper mill would take on in a joint program.

Even though the plan would not remove all pollutants discharged by Georgia-Pacific, Curtis said, it offers hope that through increased efforts by other polluters, the St. Croix may soon reach an improved water quality.

The governor said he has had two meetings in the past year with officials of the company and municipal, state and federal governments to discuss the problem.

June 11, 1968 Lewiston Daily Sun

Penobscot Pollution Project

A pollution study along the Penobscot River designed to

provide regular forecasts of anticipated water conditions along the course has been started by the Environmental Science Services Administration (ESSA), a federal agency, and will be getting national attention.

The pilot project is to be continued for one year, during which the scientists will test the waters at numerous points along the river and into Penobscot Bay. This is the first esturine prediction study to be undertaken by ESSA in the nation and its results will determine whether similar studies will be conducted in other tidal rivers and what part the surveys can play in pollution control and reduction.

The project is expected to show the rate at which pollutants dumped into the river at various points flow down river and into the sea. The effect of low water conditions, such as occur each summer and the speed of the water flowage are to be recorded, as well as the amount of pollution actually reaching the Bay.

The regular reports to be made by ESSA will be given to the Governor, to municipalities and industries along the river, to the U of M at Orono and Portland, and its oceanographic center in Walpole, and to the Sea and Shore Fisheries Department. The purpose is to enable state and local authorities to determine what remedial steps are necessary to reduce or control pollution, and when and how it should be done.

River cleanups are slow, difficult and expensive. But it can be done and ESSA should be able to give cleanup programs a real boost with its pilot project on the Penobscot.

June 12, 1968 Lewiston Evening Journal

Twin City Area Will Be Studied For Air Pollution

It was announced Tuesday by U of M President Edwin M. Young that the Lewiston-Auburn area, along with several other areas, will be studied for air pollution this summer by the University of Maine.

The University is working with a $38,108 grant funded by the Maine Air and Water Environment Improvement Commission, for the study of the magnitude and location of air pollution throughout the state.

Young said the university, through its chemistry and civil engineering departments, will study the factors contributing to the problem of air pollution in Maine and will determine goals for corrective action which will include suggested legislation for the Maine Legislature in January 1969.

The first phase of the project will be completed by Dec. 1, 1968, when a report will be filed with the commission, it was announced.

The principal investigators for the project are Prof. Irwin Douglass of the school's department of chemistry and Prof. Otis Sproul of the department of civil engineering. Project Director is Dr. Franklin Woodard of the department of civil engineering.

Peter Drottar of Livermore Falls will be among five assistants from the graduate and undergraduate programs who will be collecting much of the data in the field.

Besides the local area, the Bangor-Brewer-Old Town, Portland, Waterville-Fairfield, Presque Isle, Caribou, Rockland, Biddeford-Saco, Sanford, Brunswick and Augusta-Gardiner areas will also be studied.

Speaking about the study, Prof. Sproul noted it has been established that certain areas of Maine have a severe air pollution problem. The first phase of the study will include actual monitoring of air quality and the collection of data on meteorological elements such as wind velocity, direction and temperature.

Field data will be collected at the chosen sites at two different intervals, each of which will be for three-day periods. Air will be pumped electrically into tubes filled with chemicals which will allow the separation of the various elements found in the air, such as carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulphide, sulphur dioxide, methy mercaptan, nitrous oxide, and nitrogen dioxide.

Data will also be collected on odor and on suspended matter. Odor measurement will be made with the human nose, according to Prof. Sproul, while suspended matter will be collected on filter paper and measured for weight.

The second part of the study will see members of the project staff contacting municipal, industrial and state officials to gather basic data on the magnitude and scope of the air pollution problem in Maine.

According to the professor some on-site determinations of studies will be made while others will be made while others will come from analysis of collections in the university's laboratories. The grant includes both federal and state funds.

A year-round survey is really necessary to get the total magnitude of the air pollution problem in Maine, according to the professor, adding that the university plans to submit another proposal for an all-season indepth study in two or three locations, using automated analytical equipment and data stored at the site which would be retrived daily or weekly.

June 16, 1968 Lewiston Daily Sun

Muskie Assails Current Attitude Toward Pollution

KENNEBUNKPORT (AP) - Sen. Edmund S. Muskie took issue here Friday with what he termed as "the 'dirty as permissable' school of pollution control."

In a speech prepared for the annual convention of the Maine-New Hampshire Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry, Muskie suggested that "no one has a right to contaminate public waters."

Maine's junior senator said that "in too many cases spokesmen for industry and some industrialists hold to the outmoded view that there is a 'right' to pollute...they regard waste discharges as an economic necessity."

Muskie disputed a legal opinion drafted by the United States Chamber of Commerce, which he said held the view that the 1965 Water Quality Act did not give the Secretary of Interior authority to prohibit water quality degradation or require secondary treatment.

June 15, 1968 Portland Press Herald

Water Quality Cannot Be Enhanced, Degraded At Same Time, Says Muskie

By Edward L. Winston
Area Correspondent

KENNEBUNKPORT - "The current dispute over secondary treatment and degradation" has added to the strains between Federal Water Pollution Control Administration and state water pollution control agencies, U.S. Sen. Edmund S. Muskie told members of the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry here Friday evening.

THE ARGUMENT on secondary treatment advanced by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce "is unfortunate but not serious," Muskie said. The senator said the argument, however, has caused some confusion.

Basically, Muskie pointed out that the Department of Interior "has said that in most cases municipal and industrial waste discharges must be treated to remove about 85 per cent of the BOD (biochemical oxygen demand) and other harmful or undesirable components of these discharges, if satisfactory water quality standards are to be achieved."

He said the "timetables for installation of treatment systems is a separate question which must be related to state priorities."

Muskie tabbed the second part of the current argument more serious - that the Interior Department cannot under the law rule that water quality standards on an interstate stream may not lower existing quality.

POINTING OUT that he was the chief Senate sponsor of the Water Quality Act Muskie stressed, "You cannot ehhance the quality of water and degrade it at the same time." He told the association that proponents of the degradation argument are trying to "revive an attack on the act they lost when the legislation was passed in 1965."

This view is against the public interest and in the "long run it will work to the disadvantage of private interests," Muskie claimed.

Bringing out that industry has a direct stake in the improvement of water quality, Muskie stressed that "no one has a right to contaminate public waters."

He brought out that many of the major rivers in the area such as the Merrimac, Saco and Androscoggin are already overloaded. Additional waste discharges would make their condition intolerable, the senator said.

Muskie observed that southern Maine and New Hampshire are already feeling the first pressures of industrial expansion.

"Land prices are rising, communities are sprawling into rural areas, and choice waterfront property is being snapped up," he told the convention. This expansion will mean that the general public will not stand for the old-fashioned methods of waste disposal.

CHANGES in methods will cost industry and municipalities substantial sums for capital investments and operating costs, Muskie said. "The principal problem confronting us is the change from the lax policies of the past, to the more exacting requirements of the present and future," Muskie added.

The senator brought out that several Maine pulp and paper firms have taken steps to reduce the discharge of waste by recovering fibers and chemicals for re-use. More should be done all along this line.

Bringing in the current budgetary crisis which has cut federal budget requests and appropriations, the senator said "the administration did propose an ingenious method of making up the difference between appropriations and the total authorization as an interim solution."

This solution would enable the Secretary of the Interior to contract to pay the principal and interest on local or state bonds issued to cover the federal share of approved treatment projects.

Questions have arisen over this proposal, Muskie said, including controversy over tax exempt versus taxable local or state bonds. The senator stressed that the future of water quality programs will depend upon several factors:

1. Allocation of resources including financial, manpower and technological advances.

2. Can we improve state water quality programs and encourage better relationships between state and federal agencies?

3. Can we encourage a waste management approach to the pollution problem?

Additional discussions on the joint problems of air and water pollution will be held Saturday morning with representatives from various chemical and engineering firms speaking.

June 24, 1968 Lewiston Evening Journal

25 Years Ago Today-'43
(From The Lewiston Journal Files)

"Will the Androscoggin River smell this summer? That is the question." And the answer seemed to be yes....as soon as the hot weather struck.

June 27, 1968 Lewiston Daily Sun

MUSKIE DEFENDS POLLUTION BILL,
RAPS INDUSTRIES

ST. PAUL (AP)- Sen. Edmund Muskie Wednesday defended the standards of an air pollution bill he sponsored last year and criticized industries which demand "absolute proof" before agreeing to strict pollution controls.

The Maine Democrat spoke from Washington on a special phone hookup to the Air Pollution Control Association convention here.

Muskie's comments clashed with testimony Monday by a power company official that the government was setting standards arbitrarily that "will be unnecessarily restrictive and virtually unattainable in practice."

Earl Ewald, chairman of the board of the Northern States Power Company, said that attempts to determine harmful levels of sulphur dioxide have been wholly inconclusive.

To wait for absolute proof of pollution, Muskie said, would mean risking a possible health hazard to avoid too-strict standards.

July 2, 1968 Lewiston Daily Sun

Progress - On Paper

The nationwide campaign against water and air pollution was put into proper but shocking perspective last weekend by U.S. Senator Edmund S. Muskie, one of the pioneers in the field, from the standpoint of legislation. Sen. Muskie was a chief participant in the conference on Preserving Our Natural Environment which was a highlight of the Bates College Alumni Weekend program.

No one is better qualified to comment on the progress made to date than our Maine senator. As chairman of a subcommittee on air and water pollution control of the Senate Public Works Committee, Sen. Muskie has held public hearings all over the country. In addition, he has sponsored landmark legislation which he has steered to enactment.

In his Bates College appearance, Sen. Muskie outlined some of the major legislative steps which have been taken. Then, he surprised the audience by declaring that the progress which that legislation has brought about is not real. On paper, much has been accomplished. Actually, failure to provide funds has barred real progress, he explained.

Sen. Muskie was not speaking in discouragement, since he has and will continue his efforts toward cleaner water and air. But he wanted to set the record straight.

The passage of legislation is bound to lead to complacency. The popular expectation is that laws which have been passed will be implemented. But when those laws require money, and the funds are not forthcoming, the public deserves to know about it.

Sen. Muskie performed a significant service by rubbing the gloss off the federal anti-pollution program. The public response should be a clamor for the required funding which will bring RESULTS!

July 8, 1968 Lewiston Daily Sun

Little Androscoggin Is Heavily Polluted River

The Androscoggin River is a heavily polluted waterway but only one of its major tributaries also constitutes a serious problem.

This major tributary is the Little Androscoggin River, according to a report prepared by Stuart E. DeRoche, fishery biologist with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Game.

" Waste water from the tannery in South Paris in not only

destructive to fish life for several miles below the discharge point, but the sludge and putrid waste that covers the bottom and shoreline of this once-beautiful stretch of river is deplorable," says DeRoche.

"Wastes from food processing plants, a slaughterhouse, and untreated sewage further contribute to the pollution load in this section of the Little Androscoggin River begins to recover quiet well by the time it reaches Mechanic Falls; however here it gets another charge of putrid waste from a tissue paper plant.

"Even though this plant as well as the upstream plants, have pollution abatement facilities, they are considered inadequate to maintain the water classification of the Little Androscoggin River at a desirable level. As the settling ponds build up with sludge, itself, floating in large 'mats' in the settling ponds, is eventually deposited into the river where it creates a nuisance condition from odor and as an unsightly mess." his report notes.

"The Maine Water Improvement Commission's 1966 report recommended a Class 'C' for the Little Androscoggin River from Range Brook in Mechanic Falls to the dam at Hackett Mills and a Class 'B-2' for the river from Hackett Mills to the confluence with the Androscoggin River in Auburn. Since the river between South Paris and the outlet of Thompson Lake is already classified as 'D' the commission made no recommendations to upgrade this section."

DeRoche's report has to do with fishery problems and potentials for the Androscoggin River and its several tributaries.

July 8, 1968 Lewiston Daily Sun

POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVOCATED

Biologist Tells of Fishing
Potential of Androscoggin

By Richard Kisonak

Stuart E. DeRoche, a biologist with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Game, says there is no justification for continued abuse of the already heavily polluted Androscoggin River.

In a report summarizing the findings of the biological survey of the Androscoggin and its major tributaries from Umbagog Lake on the New Hampshire border to Merrymeeting Bay in Maine, DeRoche emphasizes that there is much to be saved by restoring the river to a quality where people can use it to full recreational potential. The report describes the fisheries potential of the Androscoggin River drainage and makes recommendations for fishery management based on biological and technological principles existing today.

He says, "The Androscoggin River basin has a tremendous potential to improve the economy of Maine. Realization of this potential can provide the recreation industry with unlimited outdoor activities that, for a long time, have been denied to Maine people and her non-resident visitirs because of the abuse of this waterway.

A Stake

"Even industry itself has a stake in this potential because of the 'clean water' industries that are now unable to settle along the Androscoggin River because of foul water. Populations of most of the game and food fish, that once played such important roles in the lives of the early settlers in the drainage, can be restored, and they will contribute tremendously to the regional economy," he says.

"The real estate value of river-bank property will increase several-fold with a clean river. Not only will the financial value of river property increase, but the aesthetic value and general living conditions along the river will improve greatly.

"Summing it all up, it can be said that many more people can benefit socially as well as economically from a clean Androscoggin River.

Several recommendations must be followed in order to fully realize the potential of the river, according to DeRoche.

Must Be Done

They include a pollution abatement program which "must be initiated in order to return most of these now-polluted waters to full fish production and to complete recreational and industrial use. Minimum permissible water quality standards for the Androscoggin River and tidal waters as recommended by the Maine Water Improvement Commission should be as follows:

"The main step of the Androscoggin River located below the most downstream crossing of the Maine-New Hampshire boundary to a line across Merrymeeting Bay in a northwest direction be classified as 'C' with a minimum of 5.0 mg-L of dissolved oxygen and with disinfection of all sewage or other wastes containing coliform bacteria. That the following conditions be maintained at the Rte. 2 Bridge in Gilead (milepoint 119.2):

"(1) That dissolved oxygen at this point shall not be less than 6 ppm.

"(2) That the ultimate BOD at 20 degrees C not exceed a maximum of 35,000 pounds per day...."

Fisheries

Other recommendations include the classification of the Little Androscoggin River as recommended by the Maine Commission

and the upgrading of the Little Androscoggin River between South Paris and the Thompson Lake outlet to at least a "C". The upgrading of this section will allow for fishery management in about 15 additional miles of river.

When pollution has been cut down to satisfactory levels in the Androscoggin River, the report states, sectional fishery management of the main river and its tributaries will include:

"(1) The main river and all tributaries above Berlin, N.H., will be managed for the coldwater species of trout that are already present there.

"(2) The main river from Berlin to Rumford is limited in its ability to produce trout by high summer water temperatures and competition from other fish; however, the fact that small populations of trout now exist around stream mouths in this section is encouraging.

Lewiston

"If dissolved oxygen content in this area of the main river were raised above survival levels by pollution abatement, an appreciable trout fishery might develop over more extensive areas than just at stream mouths.

"(3) The upper 10 miles or more of the main river between Rumford and Jay would be quite similar to the stretch described in 2 above. The lower section would be poorly suited for trout management, as it is all deep dead water; this stretch should be managed for warm water game fishes.

"(4) The main river from Jay to Lewiston, with the exception of a very limited coldwater fishery, should be managed for warmwater game fishes. The long stretches of slow-moving water in this section should provide excellent habitat for smallmouth bass and pickerel.

"(5) Gulf Island Pond, once the pollution is abated, should be surveyed by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Game to determine its suitability to game fish population.

Tidal Flats

"(6) All tributary streams will be intensively managed for the game fish populations already established in them."

The report goes on: "Minimum stream flow regualtions to insure adequate river flows during low water periods should be imposed. This agreement should be made in conjunction with the Maine Water Improvement abatement program for the Androscoggin River."

DeRoche adds: "As soon as permissable, tidal flats on the

Lower Androscoggin River should be opened to the taking of shellfish. This opening will depend upon the surveys that will be necessary by the Maine Sea and Shore Fisheries Department."

Some sections of the Androscoggin land themselves well to trout management while others provide habitat for bass and pickerel. "Let us bear in mind," DeRoche sayd, "that above the heavily polluted area in Berlin, N.H., there exists some of the finest brook trout fishing in the Northeast. Many of the main river stretches from Berlin to Jay can provide suitable habitat for trout management once pollution has been reduced.

Trout, Too

"The main river from Jay to Lewiston should provide warm water fishing because of the long deadwater stretches and warm water temperatures; also, there is little doubt that an occasional trout may be caught during the spring and fall months when water temperatures are low.

"Everything depends," says DeRoche, "on an adequate pollution abatement program. As pollution is abated and the water in Androscoggin River reaches the prescribed level of purity, more intensive studies by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Game and the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department will be necessary to determine more precisely what each river section is capable of producing for game fish. Remember, it has taken man over 200 years to destroy much of the recreational value and the sport fisheries in the Androscoggin River; restoration will take time, too."

July 11, 1968 Lewiston Daily Sun

Senate Approves Bill to
Increase Pollution Effort

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Senate passed Wednesday a bill intended to stimulate the construction of water pollution treatment facilities.

The bill, amended to include federal standards for marine communities to finance the federal share of the cost of sewage treatment, with repayment guaranteed from the federal government.

It will allow contracts amounting to $700 million in fiscal 1969; $1 billion in 1970; and $1.25 billion in fiscal 1971.

The amendment will strengthen present laws concerning the discharge of sewage from ships and boats. Sen. Edmund S. Muskie, D-Maine, described this situation as "not comparable to large municipal or industrial sources (of effluent)...but a serious and significant problem in many marinas, ports, harbors and other waterways."

Earlier at a Senate subcommittee hearing on air and water pollution control, federal officials warned that the nation could be "inundated with garbage" if adequate disposal methods are not found.

Richard D. Vaughn, head of the Welfare Department's environmental control administration, said new techniques must be found to dispose of solid waste.

A major problem, Vaughan said, is the disposal of merchandise packages and containers such as beer cans.

Subcommittee Chairman Jennings Randolph, D-W.Va., criticized severe cuts by the House in money sought for air and water pollution control and pledged to press for restoration of "at least part of the funds we believe are necessary for research" in pollution.

July 23, 1968 Lewiston Daily Sun

High Water Temperature Causing River Fish Kill

Near record temperatures of the water in the Androscoggin River, combined with a lack of oxygen resulting from recent weather, is causing a fish kill in the river.

A considerable number of fish, all identified as suckers, were spotted Monday floating down the river and Dr. Walter A. Lawrance, court appointed rivermaster, said Monday night that the water temperature at a depth of 20 feet at Gulf Island Dam was 81 degrees Monday.

Dr. Lawrance said this temperature is close to the record reading of 82 degrees about three or four years ago and indicated Monday night that with continued hot weather the water temperature could well set a new record high.

The high water temperature readings extends all the way up the river as far as Berlin, N.H., where a few days ago the water temperature at 78 degrees, very high for that altitude, and at Rumford it was about 80 degrees.

Conditions for fish life at this time, Dr. Lawrance said Monday night, are highly unfavorable both in the area of water temperature and oxygen content of the water.

The dead fish drifting down river are scattered, Dr. Lawrance reported, and are providing a feast for large flocks of sea gulls. Most of the fish are very small, the rivermaster reported, just a few inches long, with a few larger ones also spotted. A few drifted near shore in Auburn and it is anticipated that unless a

wind change occurs there will not be any large accumulation of fish at one spot.

Dr. Lawrance pointed out that oxygen in the water is used at a very rapid rate under existing conditions, contributing also to the kill.

Auburn police were advised of the kill Monday afternoon and notified Mrs. Shirley D. Schneider, R.N., city health officer. She and Dr. Lawrance both indicated that the present time there is no health hasard involved.

July 24, 1968 Lewiston Evening Journal

"Twenty-five years ago Today" 1943

Odor from the Androscoggin River nearly suffocated residents of the Twin Cities as the mercury rose to a high of 83.

July 27, 1968 Lewiston Daily Sun

ERWIN SAYS HE'LL PROSECUTE
OTHER STREAM POLLUTERS

AUGUSTA (AP) - Maine's attorney general said Friday he'd accept a newspaper's challenge to prosecute other stream polluters just as vigorously as he is acting against two Vahlsing industries on Prestile Stream in Aroostook County.

"The pollution of our air and water is immoral," James S. Erwin said in a prepared statement, "It is time we stopped tolerating it".

Erwin said he "can't patrol rivers and lakes" but can and does investigate every pollution complaint he gets. The only "real club" he has, Erwin added, is the public nuisance law, under which he acted in filing a Superior Court injunction suit against the Vahlsing Inc. potato processing plant and the Maine Sugar Industries Inc. refinery in Easton.

The last legislature prevented court action for violations of water classification standards, he said, by specifying that industries can't be prosecuted if they meet certain planning deadlines between Oct. 1, 1969, and Oct. 1, 1976.

Erwin filed his suit against Vahlsing after a group at Centreville, N.B., temporarily dammed the Prestile Stream, known as Presquile on the Canadian side, to call attention to the pollution it carried.

August 8, 1968 Lewiston Evening Journal

25 Years Ago Today

A survey of the Androscoggin River between Brunswick and Berlin, N.H., was to get underway to determine the status of the river smell nuisance in preparation for possible legal action.

August 9, 1968 Lewiston Evening Journal

Must Work Together On
Pollution Problem Says Geiger

A Lewiston industrialist told members of the Associated Industries of Maine today that "public spirited people" should stop discussing water pollution emotionally and start using some "good Yankee sense."

Raymond A. Geiger, president of Geiger Bros., of 650 Main St., said that "well intending" citizens must stop regarding the subject of pollution as an "expedient method for obtaining time and space with the news media."

Geiger is president of Associated Industries of Maine and issued the statement on pollution on the eve of that association's annual meeting at the Samoset Hotel in Augusta.

"It's a Maine tradition to work together when the chips are down," Geiger said. "In the old days when a man's barn burned his neighbors reported to work the next morning and built a new one. Well, let's draw on our heritage and work together on pollution abatement."

"This is not the time to hurl charges back and forth. It is becoming more and more obvious that industry and municipalities must plan for combined treatment. The people of Maine should join with these officials - not assail them for not doing the impossible task yesterday."

Geiger pointed out that as a Maine industrialist, he could not be regarded as a "polluter."

"But just because my barn isn't burning is no reason for me to sit back and not work with the man who has problems. It's time to stop shouting for 'action' and pitch in to make sure we're getting the 'right action.' Public pressures, whether valid or invalid, can be answered by temporary, stopgap actions. But as Maine citizens, we should not encourage such interim solutions."

Geiger called upon all Maine citizens to realize that the millions of dollars needed for pollution abatement must be spent with the assurance that conditions will improve. "Improvement should be the common goal that will unite all Maine citizens to solve one of our society's most difficult problems," Geiger said.

August 10, 1968 Lewiston Daily Sun

GOP LEGISLATOR DEFENDS POLLUTION PLAN ACTIONS

AUGUSTA (AP) - An Augusta state representative said Friday that contrary to a Democratic member's contention, the 1967 legislature gave no moratorium on water clean-up but created a specific timetable for it.

"What was a mish-mash of conflicting classifications has now been made uniform for the first time," Republican Rep. Russell F. Brown said. "More needs to be done, it is true, but for the first time we do have uniformity and a track to run on."

Brown issued a statement in reply to one earlier this week by Rep. John L. Martin D-Eagle Lake.

Referring to some recent complaints about pollution, Martin said the 1967 legislature's Republican majority rejected a bill that would have dealt with pollution and instead created classifications of water use that can't be enforced in some cases until 1978.

Brown, a member of the Natural Resources Committee, said that prior to the 1967 acts, only two main watersheds and a small area in Hancock County had any timetable for meeting their classifications.

"Most of the waters in the state could have indefinitely been open sewers without establishment of a time schedule, by various delaying tactics," he said. "Now all know that they must meet a specific timetable."

Brown added that the secretary of the interior required a timetable "of reasonable duration" for water improvement under federal law. It wouldn't be reasonable to require immediate compliance he said, especially in view of the fact many of the waters were upgraded by the same legislature that set the time schedule.

Many municipalities and industries will have to build not only primary but also secondary treatment facilities, which will require detailed engineering, long range planning and creation of priorities for the use of available federal and state funds.

Brown added that the timetable is not absolute, and the Water & Air Environmental Improvement Commission may accelerate it if it finds it reasonable to do so.

August 12, 1968 Lewiston Daily Sun

Jaycees to Discuss River Bank Project on Wednesday

New developments in a "Clean-Up the River Banks" project

being sponsored by the Lewiston-Auburn Jaycees will be discussed at a Wednesday night meeting in Auburn.

The second conference with government officials from both communities will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Auburn City Council chamber at the Auburn city building., it was announced Sunday by Lionel Beaucage Jr., Jaycee project chairman.

Two weeks ago the proposed project was discussed with municipal officials and following the discussion, Auburn Mayor Clyde E. Goudey and Mayor William Rocheleau Jr. of Lewiston endorsed the program "100 per cent."

Beaucage reported that since that time, Jaycee committee members have explored several avenues of the program. Reports are expected to be presented at the Wednesday night session.

It was also indicated that a "kick-off" date may be established at the meeting for the project which is planned for this fall.

August 12, 1968 Lewiston Daily Sun

CURTIS ASKS PANEL
DISCUSS POLLUTION

AUGUSTA (AP) - Gov. Curtis has called an Aug. 19 meeting of the Water and Air Environmental Improvement Commission to "improve our pollution abatement effort."

Curtis said in a letter to commission members that the meeting would cover staff problems, organization, a revision of laws and improved communication with other state agencies.

Curtis said it was "now encumbent upon us. . . to enable Maine to become one of the leading states in combatting pollution and restoring our natural resources."

The letter was released Sunday.

August 18, 1968 Maine Sunday Telegram

Heat On To Beef Up Pollution Laws,
But Meanwhile On The Saco---

By William Langley

AUGUSTA - The heat is on to put some muscle into Maine's anti-pollution laws, according to the Attorney General's office.

Spearheading the move to correct "flaws" in existing pollution control statues is Asst. Gen. Robert G. Fuller Jr., recruited from private law practice 14 months ago by Atty. Gen. James S. Erwin.

How much heat can be generated in beefing up the laws, however, will probably rest with the 104th Legislature.

EVEN THOUGH the Water and Air Environmental Improvement Commission (WAEIC) and the Attorney General's office are charged with most of the responsibility in pollution control in Maine, it is the state legislature which has exercised most of the authority.

In the area of water classification, for example, the WAEIC has no authority to classify Maine waters; it can only recommend to the legislature, which in turn makes the classifications.

And the Attorney General can prosecute violators only with a recommendation from the WAEIC.

"So water classification in Maine is somewhat of a political football," Fuller said.

Two recent cases illustrate the feebleness of Maine's anti-pollution laws.

When a Belfast poultry processing plant dumped a large load of poultry innards onto the banks and into the waters of Belfast Bay, the firm was fined only $100 on a litter charge.

And last month, when an Aroostook County potato processing plant caused a major fish kill in Prestile Stream with its wastes, thus prompting Canadians over the border to bulldoze a dam across the stream, the state could bring only public nuisance charges against the firm.

BEYOND THIS, only two legal actions against water pollution violators in Maine have reached the State Supreme Court, and both were dismissed because of technicalities.

Why, with so many pollution laws on the books, is the state apparently unable to better protect its waters?

Much of the reason stems from the fact that we're determining how dirty our water can get and not how clean we can make it, Fuller said.

"All waters in the state have been classified, which is a form of zoning. Classifications run from A to D, with sub-classifications along the way. But they don't always hold up.

THE PRESUMPSCOT, for example, carries a C classification from Westbrook to its mouth but rarely climbs above a D. The C classification is supposed to support fish life, but fish are observed in the Presumpscot infrequently.

WAEIC's chief engineer, Raeburn W. Macdonald, says the Presumpscot produces "nuisance conditions" frequently.

"A great many Maine rivers are operating below the classification level." Macdonald said, "but we are four men short in our department. The lack of federal funds also stymies us. We've got $25 million worth of work on our desks just waiting to be funded by the federal government."

The projects involve construction of waste treatment plants for Maine communities.

"We have the state and local funds, but no green light from the federal people," Macdonald said.

Macdonald defends the WAEIC and warns against "rumors of changes" in the pollution laws. "Then everyone stops their anti-pollution efforts to see what's coming next."

FULLER ALSO cautioned that there isn't a "magic wand" that can be waved to clean up Maine waters. "It's a long, hard project, because man's ability to foul his environment far outstrips his capacity to clean up after himself."

But he says the Attorney General's office has come up with one manuever that may help in prosecuting pollution violators.

Firms, persons, or communities wishing to use Maine waters for waste need only apply to the WAEIC for a license. After a public hearing and payment of a $50 license fee, they can dump a prescribed amount of effluent into the state's waters.

Fuller's new method of prosecuting has to do with the amount of pollution dumped in excess of that allowed by the license.

FOR EXAMPLE, one firm has a license to dump 1,500 pounds of effluent daily but has been discharging 17,564 pounds of effluent a day into a stream.

The WAEIC's lack of power appears to be the stumbling block for proper enforcement of laws that do exist.

Echoing this feeling is Orlando Delogu, associate professor of law at the University of Maine School of Law.

"The current laws can and should be strengthened, because pollution is a scientific, technical question and not legal. So the Attorney General can only act after receiving such technical information from the WAEIC," Delogu says.

Delogu, a specialist in property law, land use and state and local government, feels Maine can't clean its waters by the classification system, but "only by treatment plants and industry efforts."

"First of all, we should stipulate what kind of pollution exists, how much, and then have the power to revoke licenses.

The state legislature has been conservative in Maine's pollution laws and the nine WAEIC commissioners have got to realize they have much more power than they have been using.

"THE COMMISSION and the Attorney General must work in concert to improve the situation. The laws are on the books, but they have been systematically unused."

Delogu says the WAEIC and the legislature have "lacked courage in the past" in dealing with pollution control.

"But the new-found zeal of the Attorney General's office may mean we are going to see a bit of courage now."

He points out that Maine has one of the lowest number of waste treatment plants in the nation and that its largest city Portland is without treatment facilities.

"And this is a state where a U.S. senator, its former governor, has made political hay for years on pollution matters."

Delogu, who will be writing legislation soon on air pollution, forest taxation and land use in unorganized areas of the state, makes the following suggestions for improveing the situation:

1. CHANGE THE nine-man WAEIC commission, to three full-time members who would deal with policy, orders, hearings, and fully utilize the technical skills of an expanded WAEIC staff.

2. Establish clear powers for the WAEIC to revoke the licenses of those who violate them.

3. Expand the WAEIC technical staff.

4. Establish an "effluent charge" that would require polluters to pay the state pro rata fees so the state could take care of cleaning up the polluted waters.

"Other states, such as New York, California and Wisconsin, have proved that a tough stance gets results. Maine has not had the political will to do this. It has prostituted itself to industry.

"But industry is not the only one creating the problem. One of the reasons pollution control has dragged its feet in Maine is because its communities are major polluters, particularly in the coastal areas.

"The states that have showed courage are the states that have results to show," Delogu concluded.

August 20, 1968 Lewiston Daily Sun

Task Force Plan Slated for Study of Me. Pollution

AUGUSTA (AP) - Gov. Curtis plans to go to the public with a "task force" study of water and air pollution problems and how to solve them, it was reported Monday.

The governor said he would have a statement later in the week, after plans have become more firm.

At Curtis' request, the Water & Air Environmental Improvement Commission met with the governor for more than an hour, discussing some of the specific problems of the moment but spending more time on long range planning and new legislation.

Chairman D. E. Connelly of Hartland said afterward the commission members will cooperate with Curtis' "task force" plan for a series of public meetings.

"The next session of the legislature," Curtis said, "must assume the responsibility of bringing Maine's pollution control laws up to date to meet the demands of today - and, even more important, the demands that will come tomorrow."

September 2, 1968 Lewiston Daily Sun

L-A Mayors Co-Chairmen of Riverbank Clean-Up Project

Lewiston Mayor William Rocheleau Jr. and Auburn Mayor Clyde E. Goudey have accepted positions as honorary co-chairmen of the "Clean Up the Riverbanks" project being sponsored by the Lewiston-Auburn Jaycees, it was announced Sunday.

Lionel J. Beaucage Jr., project chairman, said that Mayors Rocheleau and Godey join several other Maine dignitaries who have accepted similar positions. They include Kenneth M. Curtis, U.S. Sen. Edmund S. Muskie, the democratic vice presidential nominee; and Maine Sen. Margaret Chase Smith.

The Twin City mayors endorsed the Jaycee project as an organizational meeting held in Lewiston in mid-July. The chief magistrates said they support the program "100 per cent."

In a letter to Beaucage, Mayor Rocheleau said, "I shall be happy to serve as honorary co-chairman of this sincere endeavor that your Chamber is undertaking to clean the Androscoggin River banks."

"It gives me pleasure to accept on behalf of the City of Auburn, in my position as mayor, your appointment as honorary

chairman of the committee for the Androscoggin River clean up campaign," Mayor Goudey wrote. He went admirable aim of your committee is one in which the necessary facilities of our city will be at your disposal and I am sure you will receive the well deserved cooperation of our citizens."

The riverbank clean up program will be launched in the Twin Cities area on Sept. 14. The program is to clean the banks of debris and rubbish which has accumulated over a period of time.

September 4, 1968 Lewiston Evening Journal

River Clean-Up Subcommittee
Named by Jaycees

The Lewiston-Auburn Jaycees which are sponsoring the "Clean Up the Riverbanks" project have appointed a subcommittee to coordinate the activities of the project.

According to Project Chairman Lionel J. Beaucage Jr., the subcommittee will meet this weekend to work out the finer details before the program gets underway.

On Tuesday, the committee received a variety of reports on the progress being made to date. Some words of wisdom from Auburn Mayor Clyde E. Goudey also served to inspire the committee.

Mayor Goudey, in analyzing the progress, told the Jaycee civic group "you're progressing very methodically." He also advised the committee about various contacts to make in the final planning.

Committee Named

Named to the subcommittee were former Auburn Councilman Franklin H. Prescott, Gerald W. Burpee of the Lewiston Exchange Club, Gordon Faunce of the Auburn Exchange Club, Donald Cadwell of Explorer Troop 154, and Jaycees Dieter Mueller, Roland Amnott, Gerald Levesque, William Wing and Arthur F. Bisson.

Chairman Beaucage, on a motion adopted by the committee, declared the campaign to clean up the riverbanks will begin at 8 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 14. The launching point is the Lincoln-Main streets area of the North Bridge in Lewiston.

Among the various reports presented Tuesday, James A. Aikman, committee vice chairman in charge of the civic division, reported that numerous contacts have been made since the last meeting.

Aikman said several individuals have volunteered to serve on the committee, either actively or as advisors. The list included Rivermaster Dr. Walter Lawrance; Dr. Robert Chute, president of the state biology association and director of the biology department at Bates College.

To Pick Targets

Also, Lewiston Public Works Department Director William R. Adas who is also a member of the state Water Improvement Commision; Michael Goldman, acting chairman of the Lewiston Citizens Advsory Committee; Harold Dutch, Boy Scout executive; Harvey Desrosseillers tre surgeon; Lewiston Economic Development Director Louis Sarelas, Faunce, Burpee, Prescott and Caldwell.

Aikman also reported that contacts are being made with local Interact and Key clubs, as well as other civic organizations in the Twin City area.

Bisson reported on a recent meeting at which it was suggested that the clean-up drive be geared to specific target areas along the riverbanks. He said a meeting is planned for the immediate future to determine the specific areas to start with.

Mayor Goudey suggested the city engineers from each community be invited to take part in the conference and to assist in determining the various target areas.

Manpower

The selected target areas will be announced at the next committee meeting set for Sept. 11 at the directors' room of the First Manufacturer's National Bank in Lewiston.

A key question raised during the course of the session pertained to manpower. It was noted that a good turnout of supporters and workers is expected Sept. 14, but no specific number of individuals was mentioned.

It was then suggested that Burpee and Amnott would serve as manpower coordinators. Persons interested in taking part were urged to contact either Burpee or Amnott. On Sept. 11, it was noted an eleventh hour session will be held for the purpose of reviewing the progress. It was suggested that at that time, groups interested in participating have a representative present to indicate just how many volunteers will be available.

Mueller reported that in recent days he has made several contacts and obtained the support of area firms which are willing to make available some heavy equipment far the campaign.....